

THE TIMES

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TOMORROW
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talk,
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media times: TV news dumbs up • Jamie Lee Curtis, perfect PR for Lords 42-45

Psychiatrist called in to hospital

Pinochet to claim he is unfit for trial

BY JOANNA BALE

GENERAL Augusto Pinochet was assessed by a leading psychiatrist yesterday as his lawyers prepared a bid to persuade Jack Straw that he is mentally unfit to stand trial.

The former Chilean dictator is said to be suffering from a stress-related disorder which could give the Home Secretary legal grounds to refuse to extradite him to Spain.

He is under the care of the distinguished psychiatrist, Geoffrey Lloyd, the medical director of the Grovelands Priory Hospital, north London, where he has been recovering from spinal surgery for the past four weeks. A highly-placed medical source said yesterday: "He is undergoing assessment for stress and stress-related disorders. It is well-documented that elderly people frequently react badly to stress."

The general, 83, has surprised doctors by making an excellent recovery from spinal surgery. This would rule out an application that he is unfit to stand trial on physical grounds.

Wednesday's historic House of Lords ruling that the general's status as a former head of state does not protect him from prosecution for genocide is said to have plunged him into a deep depression at what he regards as an unjustified be-



"Gone mad — get out of jail free"

trayal from a trusted ally. His supporters have long said that the general is too old and frail to stand trial, but they have not been aware of any psychiatric problems.

Baroness Thatcher said after the ruling: "The senator is old, frail and sick, and on compassionate grounds alone should be allowed to return to Chile."

His lawyers privately acknowledge that their only realistic option of challenging the extradition is if the general is unfit to stand trial. Mr Straw has until Wednesday to make his decision whether to approve the extradition to Spain or allow General Pino-

chet to return to Chile. It is believed that he is applying for a seven-day extension.

A Home Office spokesman said yesterday: "Under the 1989 Extradition Act, the Home Secretary can refuse extradition on compassionate grounds if a person is considered unfit to stand trial for health reasons."

"Courts go to great lengths to establish someone's fitness to stand trial and it is down to the Home Secretary to interpret the evidence."

General Pinochet was originally under the care of his spinal surgeon, Farhad Afshar, a leading neurosurgeon whose Harley Street practice is next door to Dr Lloyd's. The former dictator was moved to the Grovelands Priory Hospital, a private psychiatric concern, on October 29 to continue his rehabilitation.

But during his stay at the Grovelands it became apparent to staff that he was suffering from severe stress and he was put under the care of Dr Lloyd.

While the general's rigorous assessment is being completed, Chile's Foreign Minister, José Miguel Insulza, will continue to press the case that he has diplomatic and state immunity when he meets Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, in London today.



Celia Larkin, who lives with Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, in Dublin yesterday with Cherie Blair. The two women got on famously

Blair's historic visit delights Dail

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR used the first speech ever delivered by a British Prime Minister to Ireland's parliament yesterday to herald the end of centuries of Anglo-Irish enmity and the start of a new era of friendship and co-operation.

"So much shared history. So much shared pain. And now the hope of a new beginning," he told 300 Irish parliamentarians and dignitaries who packed the Dail for the historic event and gave him several warm ovations.

"Down through the centuries Ireland and Britain have inflicted too much pain each on the other. But now, the UK and Ireland as two modern

countries, can try to put our histories ever delivered by a British Prime Minister behind us, try to forgive and forget those age-old enmities."

Mr Blair acknowledged the present deadlock in the peace process and delivered a stern message to Northern Ireland's Unionists and republicans. He said that "we have come too far to go back now", and that it was "time for all the parties to live up to all their commitments". It was "time to set up the institutions of the new government. Time for the gun and the threat of the gun to be taken out of politics once and for all; for decommissioning to start."

"I am not asking anyone to surrender," he said as Gerry Adams watched from the gallery. "I am asking everyone to declare the victory of peace."

Mr Blair suggested that the removal of Northern Ireland as a constant source of friction opened the door to a much wider and deeper relationship between Great Britain and Ireland.

The fact of Mr Blair's address was as important as its content. "Your very presence here today symbolises... the coming of age of the relationship between our two countries," Seamus Pattison, Speaker of the Dail, said in his introduction. Mr Blair replied with a few words of ill-pronounced Irish: "Go raibh mile maith againn", or "thank you", and "Oireachtas", Irish for the upper and lower houses of parliament. His attempt brought warm applause.

Trevor Sargent, a fluent Irish speaker and Green Party member of parlia-

ment, said, however, that President Clinton showed more fluency during his visits to Ireland: "I don't really know how much practice Tony Blair did before he used his phrases. But I got the impression that he was not as carefully rehearsed as Bill Clinton."

Cherie Blair gave a helping hand while in Dublin with her husband and cemented the position of Celia Larkin as Ireland's first lady. Ms Larkin is in the odd position of living with Bertie Ahern, the Prime Minister; he remains married to his estranged wife. Many Roman Catholics have expressed opposition to the relationship, but Mrs Blair and Ms Larkin behaved like old friends throughout the visit after hugging on meeting at Dublin airport.

New M&S casualty

The boardroom rift at Marks & Spencer claimed the head of Keith Oates, its deputy chairman. Peter Salisbury, a managing director, was appointed chief executive. Pages 7, 29

More drivers

Train companies were pressed by John Prescott to recruit 600 new drivers within the next year. He said the performance on the railways was "unacceptable". Page 2

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No word for sorry in Japan

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN TOKYO

JAPAN faced two opportunities to break with some of its more unpleasant history yesterday, but shrank from the challenge.

Arthur Titherington, 76, the chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, who spent three and a half years in slave labour, was overcome with emotion after Tokyo District Court rejected expatriates' claims for compensation and an apology.

That judgment came as little surprise, but the Japanese Government had given the impression that a full and formal apology for the atrocities of Japanese forces in China from 1937 would be made to President Jiang Zemin.

But Japan's Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, employed only the words, "remorse and heartfelt apology" in a statement which neither signed.

Kowtow avoided, page 17

Family hit by double rape suffers further tragedy

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL



Kenealy: denied raping mother and daughter

THE suffering of a family hit by a double tragedy was disclosed yesterday after a burglar was given five life sentences at the Old Bailey for rape.

As William Kenealy went to prison for raping a woman and her nine-year-old daughter, it emerged that the girl's elder sister had drowned in a fountain where her body lay undiscovered for two weeks. The dead woman, who died in shallow water in Kensington Gardens, Central London, is believed to have drowned about three days before the start of the rape trial on November 16.

Her body, with the words "funky pumpkin" tattooed on her stomach, was identified yesterday after being recovered the day before. Police are treating her death as suspicious, but said there was no evidence of foul play.

The rape happened on Christmas night 1996 after family festivities at the flat where the 20-year-old woman

used to live, while her mother, 55, and younger sister were sleeping in a shared bed. It came after the elder daughter had gone out for the evening and her mother had been unable to lock the patio doors through which Kenealy walked.

On November 6 this year, the 20-year-old woman, who

had a history of psychiatric illness, left her mother's home to visit friends in London. A member of the park staff saw the body on November 13 after a passer-by reported an object under the water, but he disregarded it as rubbish in the fountain.

Detectives want to interview anyone who saw the woman, who was single and unemployed, during the week after she left her mother's home. She had not been due to give evidence at the trial.

The mother, a widow and former nurse, described the knife-wielding Kenealy as "pure evil" after he was convicted earlier this week. She said: "He needs to be put down a pit. I could almost forgive him for what he did to me but not for what he did to my daughter."

Kenealy, 25, from Northolt, northwest London, denied twice raping mother and daughter, and later raping a 17-year-old girl.

Books for schools campaign

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

THE TIMES today launches the biggest initiative to replenish the shelves of school libraries.

Millions of free books will be available as part of the Free Books for Schools scheme, which has the backing of David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

More than 14,000 schools have already registered for the scheme, which is being promoted by News International and Walkers Snack Foods Ltd.

The scheme offers a range of 150 different titles for each participating school in return for tokens found in The Times and other News International newspapers, as well as on packets of Walkers snack foods. The tokens will start appearing in the New Year.

Books offer, pages 8,9
Leading article, page 25

Centre for tearaways ordered to shape up

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

ELEVEN teenage tearaways are to be removed from Britain's troubled first child jail as the Home Office last night ordered urgent refurbishments and improvements in staff training.

The tough action plan was ordered by Paul Boateng, a Home Office Minister, who visited Medway Secure Training Centre near Rochester four days after an investigation by The Times disclosed a history of unrest, damage and staff departures at the unit. The inter-

vention by Mr Boateng was, however, clouded by the news that Sue Clifton, the director of the centre, has been appointed as an unpaid adviser to the Youth Justice Board, offering advice on secure facilities for young people.

The minister said he had asked Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary which runs the centre, to implement a "refurbishment" programme so as to ensure a high standard of care, control, education and training as required by its contract. He rebuked Rebound which admits that it was taken aback by the violent behaviour of many of the of-

fenders. The centre opened this year. "We expect Rebound to deliver to these young people in conditions in which their welfare and public safety are secured. Nothing less will do," he said.

The offenders have been excluded from schools for an average of four years and each of the 60 who have spent time there had been convicted of an average of seven serious offences.

Mr Boateng was fully aware that a social services inspection team had criticised the centre, which can hold a maximum of 40 12-14-year-old persistent offenders. He said: "Whilst there

are clearly some difficulties at Medway which I want to see put right, there is a willingness amongst those working there to get to grips with these problems. We should all be aware that the children placed have troubled backgrounds and are characterised by challenging behaviour. They require a high standard of care and management if they are to get to grips with their offending and make something of their young lives."

While work on the centre is being carried out the number of inmates will be reduced to 25. There are presently 36 children there.

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Caravanner stands coolly amid her colourless colleagues

If the former Welsh Secretary Ron Davies's favourite song is *I am what I am*, Margaret Beckett could find her theme tune in the Elton John songbook: *I'm still standing, after all these years*...

For the Leader of the House — formerly President of the Board of Trade, formerly Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, formerly Shadow Health Secretary, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and Campaigns Co-ordinator, for a short time Acting Labour Leader after John Smith's

death, and Shadow Chancellor before that — this is only the later phase of her political career. Earlier, as Margaret Jackson, she was a formidable minister in the Education Department, overseeing the comprehensive schools.

This woman is no quitter. And Mrs Beckett is still standing, cool under fire, crisp, brisk and demure in her elegant trouser-suits and hard hair. Unfussed and unpretentious, she is an underrated asset to Labour at Westminster: a steady presence dyed in the

natural hues of her party, not one of your new Labour instant Whip politicians marketed in a bewildering range of artificial colourings, all vanilla.

Beckett's moods range from playful to icy but she never shouts. She has a steely quality. Such passion as she commands is expended quietly.

Wholly lacking airs and graces and an 'out' caravanner, she has never complained at this sketch — except once. After an unfortunate robbery at her home in Derby I remarked that one of Britain's



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

finest collections of plastic earrings had been dispersed beyond recovery.

Mrs Beckett politely put me right: some of her earrings were Royal Doulton. When I wrote a sketch about a fly that had become caught in her hair during a press-conference, she presented me with a fly-swat.

Before fielding a labyrinthine briefing about possible Lords tactics in the new Session, Mrs Beckett's lot was to face her weekly grilling by MPs on the forthcoming "Business of the House". Business Questions bear no more than a nodding acquaintance with Business: really just an opportunity for backbenchers to throw wet sponges at some-

body in the Government. Mrs Beckett endured the kiddies' playtime with her usual poise. She has pioneered a new, no-nonsense approach to dealing with inquiries to which she does not know the answer: she replies that she does not know the answer. In British politics this is an astonishing novelty and leaves questioners floundering.

Only Dennis Skinner (Lab. Bolsover) slightly flustered her. In mocking reprise of a phrase of Peter Mandelson's, Mr Skinner told the Govern-

ment that for General Pinochet to be let off the hook by the Home Secretary would be pretty gut-wrenching stuff. Oh yes, Skinner's still standing.

The debate following was led by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, a thoughtful, moderate, genial old socialist. Mr Dobson, too, is still standing — a Corinthian column, one of a few still upright among the rubble of a collapsed ideology. He was his usual, boisterous self.

Not much later, Michael Heseltine rose. With easy grace

he swung a few desultory punches at the Government, just to show he still can, cheering up his own side immensely. Even when — as yesterday — the engine is only idling at the amber lights with a little rev here and there by way of display, we are reminded of the horsepower under that rhetorical bonnet.

In an age of Nescafé politics and Nescafé politicians, it is good to encounter, in Beckett, Skinner, Dobson, Heseltine, the sounds of the coffee-grinder and the aroma of real coffee.

Prescott urges train firms to recruit drivers

TRAIN companies were pressed by John Prescott last night to recruit 800 new drivers within the next year as he said the performance on the railways was "unacceptable".

The Deputy Prime Minister has no statutory power to force the train companies to recruit drivers but he made it clear to a meeting of rail industry leaders that only companies that commit themselves to improving the service will be considered for future railway contracts. And, continuing his tough line, he told them that they had 12 months to improve punctuality and other standards before tougher laws are introduced to tighten regulation of the rail network.

However, Mr Prescott admitted that introducing improvements "will be a long haul" as senior rail managers concede that punctuality could worsen over the coming months before standards get better.

Shortages of drivers across the country have been blamed by many of the 25 train operators for problems in running punctual services. However, some 2,500 drivers lost their jobs in the run-up to privatisation, leaving some 14,000 in the new private industry.

The driver shortage, which has coincided with substantial increases in the number of train services, has forced many operators into an intense recruitment battle, with staff being poached at salaries of more than £25,000, especial-

Deputy Prime Minister says performance is unacceptable, writes Arthur Leathley

ly by firms running long distance services.

Despite Mr Prescott's demands that train companies set out immediate plans to improve services he admitted that it would be some time before passengers saw higher standards. "It would be a long haul but today we saw a very positive step towards improving the system," he said after meeting rail industry leaders and regulators at his office.

The meeting was called by ministers exasperated at the worsening standards of punctuality over the last year, which have taken many train services back to the levels of British Rail. At yesterday's meeting, operators and Railtrack agreed to set up a joint working group to identify and tackle the 50 worst blackspots for delays and cancellations. Railtrack, the track and signalling company, has already identified some 20 sections of track that cause greatest congestion, but the firm has been criticised by the rail regulator, John Swift, for being too

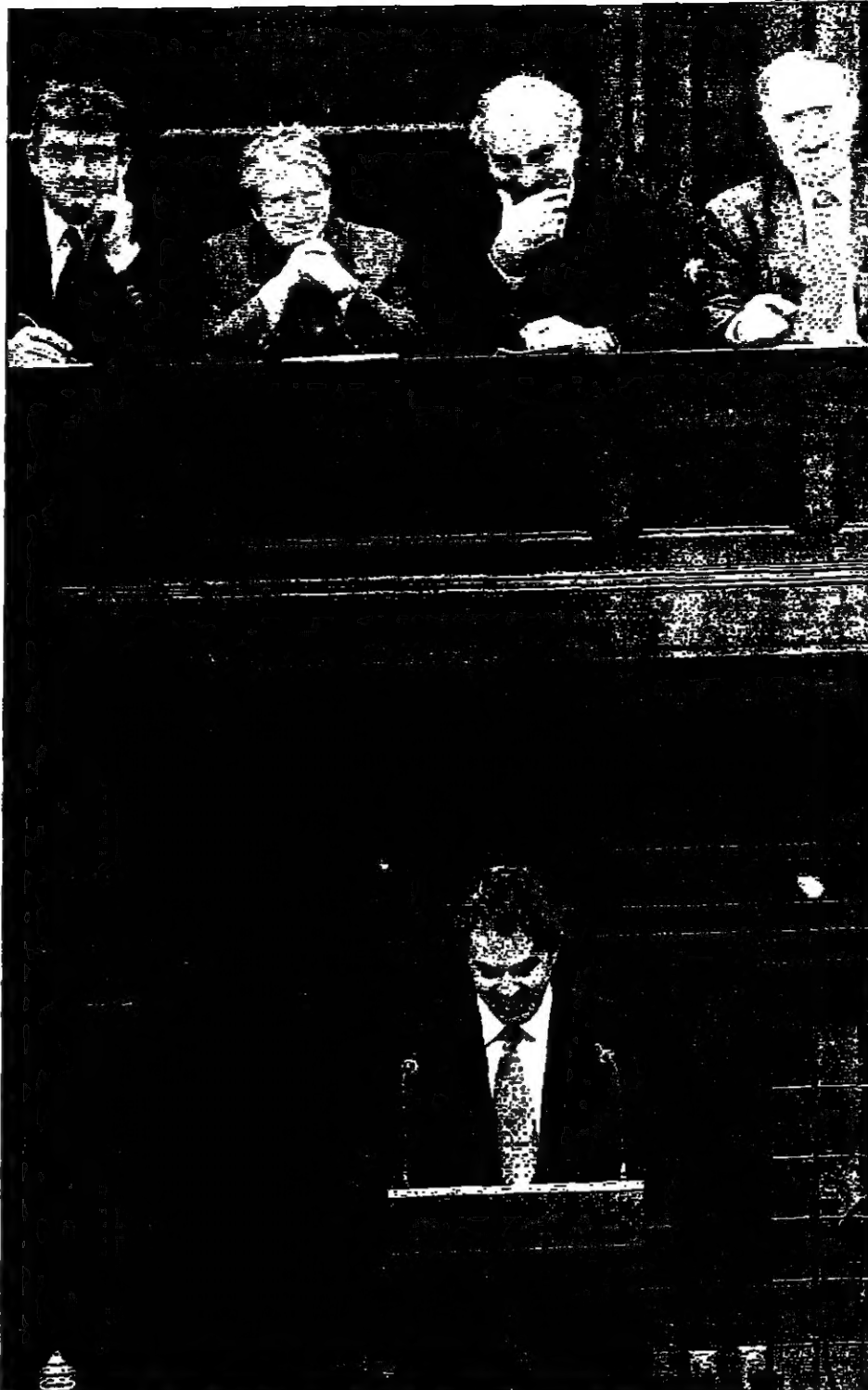
vague in its timetable for relieving the bottlenecks.

Most of the worst sections are on the commuter routes into London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Edinburgh but there are also other parts of the network that require extra track because the current two-track layout is proving inadequate.

Mr Prescott ordered the companies to set firm proposals by next February, when they will be called to a public meeting at which passengers will be able to question them on their plans.

Ministers also confirmed that they are planning to widen the range of targets that will be taken into consideration when deciding whether train companies will be allowed to renew their franchises. Currently, punctuality, train cancellations and overcrowding remain the main standards by which operators are judged and penalised financially. However ministers also plan to include levels of passenger satisfaction over issues such as the cleanliness of trains, attitude of staff and levels of on-board catering.

John Reid, the Transport Minister who also attended yesterday's meeting, said that punctuality and cancellations would remain the most important factors, said He added that ministers would be setting up a shadow Strategic Rail Authority by next spring to co-ordinate policy between regulators and the industry.



Tony Blair makes his historic speech to the Dublin parliament yesterday, watched by Irish MPs

Undercover police may hunt for racists

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BLACK London police officers may go undercover to test whether colleagues are racist and corruption investigators will set up traps with marked cash under Scotland Yard plans for "integrity tests".

The tests being planned by Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, could be targeted at stations, units or individuals who come under suspicion but senior officers say that the operations could also be random.

Investigators might be infiltrated into the stations as "sleepers" posing as ordinary officers to get close to suspects. Cases could be set up where police are confronted with large amounts of cash or drugs.

Unknown to the officers the evidence would in fact be marked or monitored by hidden cameras and microphones. Last month two former Flying Squad officers were convicted for a cannabis conspiracy.

If there are suspicions of racism the investigators may enrol members of local communities to help them check allegations of racial bias and language towards members of the ethnic communities. The Yard could also use black officers posing as civilians. A number already work undercover for the Yard's SO11 criminal intelligence unit.

The plans are the latest move by Sir Paul to drive corruption out of his force. Detectives from his enlarged complaints investigation bureau will also target officers suspected of fabricating evidence in investigations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Councillor resigns after arrest

A councillor praised by Tony Blair for his leadership has resigned as head of his party group after being arrested by fraud squad detectives. Malcolm Glover is the second leader of the controlling Labour group on Doncaster council in south Yorkshire to resign within two years after being questioned by officers investigating corruption. He was appointed in March last year to replace Peter Welsh, who was also questioned by police.

Mr Glover, 47, was arrested on Wednesday by officers working on the Operation Denum investigation into claims of expenses fiddling, the awarding of contracts and helping developers obtain planning permission. Before the local government elections Mr Glover apologised for the council's poor performance.

CPS accused

The Crown Prosecution Service was yesterday accused of wasting millions of pounds following the collapse of a court case against two animal rights activists. After four years of legal argument, a judge has thrown out charges against Paul Rogers and Robin Webb of inciting arson and criminal damage by publishing articles in the animal rights magazine *Green Anarchist*, on the ground that the charges were wrongly worded.

Cash for colleges

The Government yesterday announced £720 million to improve standards of learning and the appearance of further education colleges, in support of its pledge to add 400,000 places to FE colleges before the next election. Announcing the money at the annual conference of the Association for Colleges, in Harrogate, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said he expected colleges to work hard to raise standards.

Director quits

The executive appointed to oversee a restructuring of the Arts Council of England has resigned unexpectedly. The departure of Graham Marchant, 45, six months after he was appointed executive director of arts and policy, astounded the arts community. The former general manager of the North London dance centre, The Place, and administrator at Opera North was brought in last June to slim down the Arts Council operation.

Patten sees his future in Europe

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS PATTEN yesterday gave the strongest signal yet that he would like his political future to be in Europe rather than Westminster.

The former Hong Kong governor said that he would be "delighted" to be approached as Britain's next European Commissioner when the job becomes available next year. He contrasted his enthusiasm for the Brussels post with scepticism for the other possibilities open to him, namely returning to the Commons as an MP or running for mayor of London.

The former Tory chairman and ex-MP for Bath said that there was a "very, very bad track record" of trying to parachute party grandees into the Commons, and suggested that he might not be whole-

hearted enough to throw himself into constituency business for a second time. And although not ruling himself out of the race to become the Tories' candidate for mayor, he raised doubts about whether the role would have enough executive powers to make it a credible job.

But asked about the job of succeeding Sir Leon Brittan as one of Britain's two European Commissioners next year, Mr Patten said: "It's an interesting idea. If anybody wants to talk to me about it I would be delighted to hear from them."

Although William Hague has suggested that he could accept Mr Patten in the job, such a move would present him with political difficulties because he has already put forward Alastair Goodlad, the

former Tory Chief Whip, as his nomination. With Neil Kinnock holding the other post, the vacancy would by convention go to a Tory. The Prime Minister, who makes the appointment, is known to think highly of Mr Patten and gave him the job of heading the commission into the future of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Although predicting that William Hague would be the next Tory Prime Minister, Mr Patten criticised the party leader's policy of ruling out the single currency for the lifetime of the next parliament: "Waiting and seeing is more sensible than waiting a very long time and then seeing."

But he also took a sideswipe at Mr Blair's adoption of the "Third Way" as the Government's guiding philosophy.

West too weak to keep peace, says Portillo

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

NUCLEAR confrontation is more likely than at any time in the last 30 years because of the collapse of the West's moral authority, Michael Portillo will say today.

In an outspoken attack on the way the Nato alliance has responded to recent emergencies in Kosovo and Iraq, the former Defence Secretary will become the first senior British politician to suggest that President Clinton's troubles over the Monica Lewinsky contro-

versy have damaged western interests. In a speech to the Royal United Services Institute in London, Mr Portillo will not name the president.

But he will say: "Our wishes no longer hold sway, our words no longer convince and our willpower no longer impresses. When Western leaders are involved in scandals, respect for the West is reduced further, and with it our influence too."

His main criticism, howev-

er, will be directed at the failure of other European governments sufficiently to back Britain and the United States in the crises of the last few months. Referring to the series of Nato warnings to Saddam Hussein over weapons inspections in Iraq, he says: "An Iraqi undertaking was considered sufficient reason to call off the mission, even though an American official described it as being full of holes."

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Santas sit exam in running a grotto

Simon de Bruxelles on Britain's first Father Christmas diploma

THE telephone rings at the other end of the line. "Hello, shopping centre security," a voice answers. "Can you put me through to Santa's grotto please?" Click. "Good morning, Father Christmas speaking." "Hello, this is Simon de Bruxelles from The Times. Is that Rex?" "No, this is Father Christmas." "Well, would you mind if I had a word with you about the course you are running in Santa studies?" "Only if you say hello to the children first. This call is being broadcast through a teddy bear which moves his mouth when you talk. Say hello, children."

Childish giggles in the background. I have finally tracked Santa to his lair.

Rex, a middle-aged man who will only answer to the name Father Christmas, is running Britain's first course in Santa Clausing.

For the past eight weeks three students at an adult education college in Somerset have been learning how to befriend children without scaring their parents. No longer is it enough to dress up in a red costume, wear a cotton wool beard and slap your thighs while chortling "Ho, Ho, Ho".

Not only does today's Santa have to study voice projection and "ambient lighting for grottos", he has to produce a certificate from the police proving that he has a clean record.

Santa has been having a lean time recently: only half the number of stores have grot-

tos this year compared to last. Many department stores have banned children from sitting on Santa's knee, fearing it could be misconstrued.

Father Christmas said: "For 364 days of the year parents tell their children not to talk to strangers. When they take them to see Santa they tell them not only to talk to this total stranger but also to sit on his knee in a strange room."

"We want to help parents feel absolutely sure that their children are with a trustworthy person."

Students are given trained in all aspects of Santa Clausing, including the history of Father Christmas, understanding the public, running your own grotto, choosing toys, how to train elves and dealing with difficult situations.

After the eight-week course, fully qualified Santas can hope to earn anything between £8 and £125 an hour.

The three graduates of Weston College in Weston-super-Mare who were aged between 35 and 73 have taken their diplomas in Santa Clausing and have found work in local shopping malls.

Kath Panes, the head of adult education, said: "We believe this is a professional job and that it should be treated as such. All people who pass the course gain a diploma and next year we hope to take on students from all over on our residential course."

Hundreds of inquiries have been received from as far away as Canada and Sweden since details of the course were released on the Internet.



Visitors to The Body will enter at the base of the torso. Inside they will learn about gurgles, heartbeats and how the organs deal with a hangover

Legless man to greet Dome visitors

BY MARK HENDERSON

A GIANT abstract sculpture showing a male and female figure embracing will welcome visitors to the Millennium Dome. It was announced yesterday.

The monumental figures, dubbed "The Body", are 90ft high and 200ft long and form the centrepiece of the Body Zone — the first exhibit the public will see on entering the £758 million canopy in 2000.

The man reclines on an elbow with his left arm embracing the woman and both figures lean towards the entrance of the Dome in a gesture of welcome. They are joined at the torso, leaving only the woman with legs.

The sleek design, by the architect Nigel Coates, echoes Henry Moore and removes the "giggle factor" of showing genitalia by giving the male figure an upper half only. Earlier plans for a single male, female or asexual figure were abandoned in part because of worries about the effect of large or absent private parts.

Visitors will enter at the base of the torso and climb an escalator to take a tour

through the workings of the human body. One section will explain how your insides deal with a hangover, and another will concentrate on body sounds — the heartbeat and the gurgles of the stomach. The exit route leaves through the legs, into an interactive "exploration area" on health, beauty and medical advances.

The long-awaited final design for The Body was unveiled yesterday to mark the landmark of 400 days until the site in Greenwich, south east London, opens its doors on December 31, 1999. Earlier designs for the figure included large male or female figures, and a mother and baby. It will be sponsored by £12 million from Boots the Chemist.

Michael Grade, a director of the New Millennium Experience Company, said: "It is about getting into the body and finding out how you deal with things like a hangover."

Detailed plans for the Mind Zone were also revealed for the first time. An ambitious, gravity-defying shell designed by the Iranian-born architect Zaha Hadid, which has been



The Mind Zone has been compared to a diving board

likened to a giant diving-board, will house a celebration of the human brain and its creative power.

Visitors will be able to see scans of their own brains, showing how different parts respond to different stimuli, and there will be explanation of the brain's powers of recovery — one exhibit will show its ability to "rewire" itself after an accident.

There will be a "Robot Zoo" showing the development of artificial intelligence from the 1950s to the present day and the future, and an ambitious film will explore space from

the finest particles to satellite images. British Aerospace and GEC were named as joint sponsors of the zone, each contributing £6 million, prompting some disquiet about the involvement of two of Britain's largest arms exporters.

Jennie Page, chief executive of the New Millennium Experience Company, said: "All the technology on show in the Mind Zone will have a civil application. We are not looking to have defence as a topic anywhere in the Dome."

There was further controversy about the role of the American fast-food chain McDon-

ald's as the £12 million sponsor of Our Town Story, a daily pageant featuring different communities around Britain. One Liberal Democrat MP said that the involvement of such firms was turning the Dome into little more than a "trade fair".

McDonald's will have two of the 30 food outlets inside the Dome, Ms Page said. She also announced that the 5,000 capacity Baby Dome was likely to show films "celebrating one of the greatest gifts to the world of the last 2,000 years — the British sense of humour."

Total sponsorship for the Dome has now reached £120 million, just £30 million short of its £150 million target, and Ms Page said advanced negotiations were under way over another £15 million.

London Transport's chief executive was attacked by MPs yesterday after setting a "last minute date" — the end of next October — to finish the Jubilee Line in time for the opening of the Dome. The Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee criticised Denis Tunncliffe for not having any contingency plans in place.

Private schools claim distortion in tables

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

THREE QUARTERS of independent schools will have their performance misrepresented in the league tables to be published next week, the private sector schools body claimed yesterday.

Schools such as Winchester College, one of the most academically successful in the country, will be shown to have achieved grades 10 per cent worse than their candidates' actual results.

The problem has arisen because the Department for Education bases its statistics only on the grades of pupils who were 15 at the beginning of the school year in which they took their GCSEs. In many independent schools and some state schools, however, a small number of pupils in the GCSE year are just over or just under this statutory age. Although the results of the under-age pupils are included in the year that they pass 15, children taking the examinations when they are over the age cohort appear, statistically speaking, as failures.

A survey by the Independent Schools Information Service compared the results of 470 fee-paying schools with the figures for those schools published by the Government. For one in four of these schools, the official statistics will show them performing more than 10 per cent worse than they actually did. Boarding schools, which have higher proportions of pupils from overseas or whose previous education has been disrupted, were particularly hard hit.

The actual GCSE points score achieved at Felsted School in Essex was 51.2, but it is given as only 44.3 in Department for Education figures. The headmaster, Stephen Roberts said: "Despite meetings and letters, the [department] continues to publish statistics which do not represent fairly the performance of schools and their pupils."

Monday the 11 th. 2 p.m.



IN THE
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ONLY 50P

Sick husband saved by wife in a million

A WOMAN is to give her ailing husband a new lease on life by giving him one of her kidneys.

Doctors have discovered that the couple, related only by marriage, have not only the same blood group but the same cell structure, giving the best possible chance of a successful transplant.

Peter Creteau, 58, an electronic engineer from Corfe Mullen in Dorset, was told that he would probably have to wait for at least five years for a transplant operation when he was diagnosed with renal failure.

With 5,500 people on the national transplant waiting list his chances of finding a suitable donor were slim and he faced years of relying on a dialysis machine. It was then that his wife, Raphaella, volunteered to give him one of her kidneys.

"I made up my mind that I would offer one of my kidneys, but I didn't tell Peter until we were in front of the doctors."

**Kidney swap
couple have
beaten huge
odds against
donor operation,**
writes Ian Murray

she said last night. "They said our children were more likely to be a match, but I felt their life span is greater than mine so I should be the first to be eliminated."

Doctors told her that as she was not a blood relative it was unlikely that she would be a suitable donor. She was born in Italy and he in France but she insisted they carried out tests anyway.

"I was amazed to discover it was a perfect match," she said. "The doctor said he'd never heard of it happening in Britain before. It was absolutely

phenomenal. We were both stunned when we came out of hospital."

"I told Peter after 33 years of marriage we finally found something we had in common — the same blood group. That broke the tension."

"One doctor told me it was a chance in a million. My only worry is in case anything goes wrong with the operation, but the surgeons have said there is a 96 per cent chance of success because it is a live transplant."

"Nothing in life is 100 per cent so we decided to have a go for it, it's just amazing."

Mr Creteau said: "It's absolutely amazing to share something in life with your wife other than material things. I am more worried about Raphaella having her operation than me, because hers is far more difficult."

Rachel Stoddard-Murden, transplant co-ordinator at Dorchester Hospital, said: "The chances of a wife being a match for her husband are less than 1 per cent."



Peter and Raphaella Creteau: doctors were amazed that their cells matched so well

BA pilot accepts damages over surgery

BY TIM JONES

A PILOT who claimed his career was destroyed after a failed reverse circumcision shattered his confidence yesterday accepted more than £800,000 in damages to end his High Court action.

James Williams, 42, had been seeking more than £3 million in compensation from John Pryor, the consultant surgeon who operated to give him a new foreskin, but said he found it too traumatic to continue the case. Mr Williams has made a complaint to the General Medical Council against Mr Pryor, who operated on him at the private Lister Hospital in Chelsea.

The court heard that the skin graft Mr Williams had received in a reverse circumcision operation in 1994, designed to cure discomfort during sex, had turned gangrenous and he had almost lost his penis. Nicholas Levisseur, his counsel, had told the judge: "The effects have been catastrophic. His moods are volatile. His self-confidence has gone and his nerves are shot."

Last night, Laurence Vick, his solicitor, said: "Mr Williams considers himself extremely fortunate to have survived this operation. He suffered the most appalling injuries to his abdomen and genitals as a result of what he understood was to be a straightforward procedure involving a short hospital stay."

Mr Vick added: "These events resulted in the loss of his career as an airline pilot after he had to be medically retired by British Airways. It had been his life-long ambition to fly and he is understandably bitter." The past four years, he said, had been a great strain for his client, who had suffered humiliation and trauma pursuing the claim.

However, he added, Mr Williams "feels passionately this is a course of action he had to take to prevent this happening to anyone else".

Since the operation, in December 1994, the court was told, Mr Williams, who earned £66,000 a year, flying Jumbo Jets, had become a broken man who suffered from such depression and post-traumatic stress he was unlikely to fly again. He had undergone six operations to repair the damage he had suffered and had lost his family and his home in Devon.

In a statement issued through the Medical Defence Union, Mr Pryor, who denied negligence or breach of duty, said: "I did not have the opportunity to give evidence in court but I maintain that his complex surgery was performed properly and competently."



Williams' complaint to Medical Council

Neglect charges levelled at carers

BY MARK HENDERSON

FIVE carers were being questioned over neglect allegations last night after detectives and social workers raided a residential home in Essex for vulnerable children and adults.

Two women aged 59 and 39 were held on suspicion of neglect and perverting the course of justice, while two other women, both aged 61, also face neglect charges.

A fifth carer, a man aged 26, was arrested in Cornwall and was being returned to Colchester last night for questioning. Officers and social workers from the Essex child protection unit made the arrests following allegations of physical abuse of residents of the Old Convent in Bicknacre, near Chelmsford.

More than 100 police and social workers were involved on the raid, which began at 7.30 am yesterday.

Twelve children and fourteen adults staying at the home, which is run by an independent charity, were taken to new accommodation in Colchester, 15 miles away.

Detective Chief Superintendent Lee Weavers, head of Essex CID, said: "The focus of the intervention today was on behalf of the children and vulnerable adults with disabilities."

"Our principle objective was to ensure the safety of the residents while minimising their anxiety and any possible distress."

Officers plan to search the premises for three to five days for evidence. A helpline has been set up for concerned relatives of residents.

The home has been run by the independent Family In Trust since 1985.

Straw defends leadership style

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, last night turned on critics who accused the Government of "control freakery" and said that what they were witnessing was strong leadership. The Government's style was one of "effective government, a government with a clear purpose".

Labour's manifesto commitments, particularly on constitutional reform, could not be carried out without such effective leadership, he said.

Speaking yesterday at a conference organised by Democratic Audit and Charter 88, sponsored by *The Times*, Mr Straw took the opportunity to respond to critics of Tony Blair's centrist government.

Radical policies such as devolution and transfer of powers required a "strong and confident government".

"For such a radical process of change to be effective and enduring, it does need to be managed in a co-ordinated and structured way."

Mr Straw also used the occasion to nail the impression that he was "a leading oppo-

nent of Freedom of Information".

The Home Secretary, who was given responsibility for the proposed new draft FoI Bill by Mr Blair last summer, denied the charge and said he had already taken a number of steps to make the Home Office more open.

Mr Straw has ordered that all official statistics should be published independently of Ministers. He has also published all immigration and casework manuals, except those covering intelligence, law enforcement and sensitive areas and has decided to give proper reasons for his decision to refuse any applications for British citizenship.

Mr Straw has also pledged to publish all findings of Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, and to set up voluntary registers of freemasons in the criminal justice system.

He made clear, however, that he was keen to ensure the detail of the draft bill was "right" but expected to publish in the new year.

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Williams' complaint to Medical Council

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Williams' complaint to Medical Council

BA pilot
accepts
damages
over
surgery

By Tim Jones

Shades of MI5 in battle for top store job

M&S

Ex-spy-master
was caught in
unprecedented
web of intrigue,
says Patience
Wheatcroft

THE former Director-General of MI5, Dame Stella Rimington, became a director of Marks & Spencer last year. She might have expected that life in the boardrooms of big business would have been very different from the Security Services. Instead, she found herself plunged rapidly into a situation fraught with warring factions and political intrigue. There was an international leadership crisis, and Dame Stella became a crucial member of the team charged with sorting it out.

For 2½ weeks, Brian Baldock, a former deputy chairman of Guinness, led the attempts to resolve the battle over who should run M&S. Dame Stella working closely with him. With the Baker Street headquarters in London shrouded in an information blackout that would have done credit to the Kremlin, they met at all hours, interviewing all the 15 executive directors of the company, some of them many times.

The result of their deliberations was revealed yesterday, Peter Salisbury being promoted to chief executive of the firm and the deputy chairman, Keith Oates, clearing his desk and continuing to negotiate a pay-off.

After the intense secrecy of the last couple of weeks, it was a day of high drama for M&S as the identity of the chosen one was revealed to the Stock Exchange and the man himself was introduced to the world's media. The stock market was disappointed that, after all their top secret efforts, the former spymaster and her colleagues had actually come up with the answer that had been widely, and unenthusiastically, predicted. Peter Salisbury may be a safe pair of hands, but analysts are not convinced that he is the inspirational leader required for a

fied that decision, and from that moment, the entire board were united behind their man. Any qualms they may have had about his ability to pioneer change in the organisation or to stand up to his chairman were instantly buried. With the exception of the departing Mr Oates, directors at M&S have always adhered to the view that corporate responsibility is more binding than cabinet responsibility.

So yesterday morning, Peter Salisbury was introduced to the world as the new chief executive of Marks & Spencer. The world was unimpressed. But in the afternoon he was ushered into a room where 120 M&S executives awaited their new leader and greeted with a 2½ minute standing ovation.

Now Dame Stella and her colleagues will be monitoring his performance with the intensity of guardians of the national interest.



Shoppers at the M&S store at Marble Arch yesterday: Maureen Spencer, Dennis House, Jacqueline Billingsley and Gary Reeves

'The street cred image has gone too far'

By Susie Steiner

THERE was no shortage of advice for Marks & Spencer's new chief executive from shoppers at the store at Marble Arch yesterday.

Though business was brisk, customers criticised its clothing ranges, said its regional shops were badly stocked and that it was high time the retailer accepted credit cards. The group's attempts to keep its boardroom tussles a secret have largely failed. Most shoppers were well aware of the struggle at the top and of the drop in profits.

Jacqueline Billingsley, of West Hampstead, northwest London, expressed the views of many when she

said M&S's efforts to shake off its frumpy image had gone too far. "They have gone for street cred but I'm in my forties and there is nothing for people of my age group," she said.

Pamela House, 65, of Guildford, Surrey, was similarly disappointed. "For my age group there has been absolutely nothing we can buy this year. They went from being really frumpy to being not bad. Now it's all too teenage. My friends and I like to be fashionable but a lot of the things we can't wear. The skirts they have don't go around middle-aged women's tummies."

Her husband, Dennis, 61, shops at the chain about once a month ("usually trailing behind my wife") and said

regional stores were disappointing. "We live in Guildford and that store has definitely been demoted. We have to go to a bigger one to shop. They are in decline and cutting back, but they are putting pressure on the customer to travel to get to a decent store."

Gary Reeves, 35, of Docklands, East London, shops in M&S about once a week and said he appreciated the chain's policies. "They are number one in the high street — everyone in the street has got a green bag. But they have to get a handle on fashion, particularly in the regional stores. It's fine in Marble Arch, but go somewhere like Grantham and it's really poor."

Gerry Bradley, 27, of Beckenham,

South London, said it was still "deeply uncool" to shop for clothes in Marks & Spencer. "It's a perception thing. It's an old man's shop. I wouldn't buy anything at M&S but my dad would have a great time." But he added: "The food is fantastic. We both work and the ready meals are fabulous."

Maureen Spencer, 61, of Woking, Surrey, praised the M&S Christmas pudding as unsurpassed, but was disappointed in the clothing. "We have bought nothing," she said. "They have gone too teenage, which is all wrong. I want a sweater that covers my backside and that keeps me warm. The clothes are no longer for the average person in the street."



Dame Stella: familiar world of intrigue

multimillion-pound business in need of change. They are also concerned about how much authority he will have, given the continuing presence of Sir Richard Greenbury as chairman until mid-2000.

Her 27 years in the security services may not have prepared Dame Stella for the challenge she and her colleagues faced in persuading Sir Richard to loosen his grip on the company. They knew that there was a looming problem at the top of M&S. The issue of who would succeed the formidable Sir Richard was one they had broached occasionally but left unresolved, partly because of his reluctance to relinquish his all-powerful position and partly because they were uncertain as to who would be capable of taking on the huge task of running M&S. The four managing directors he had lined up beneath him each had talents, but the non-executives had not been able to agree that any of them was ready to head a business with worldwide sales topping £8 billion.

However, nearly three weeks ago they were forced to

act when Mr Oates made a public play for the top job. Such an event was unprecedented at M&S and the other directors were horror-struck. Sir Richard flew back from India to defend his position. Mr Baldock, who had helped to steer Guinness through its prolonged City scandal, Dame Stella and the four other M&S non-executives went into emergency session.

Communication between Baker Street and the outside world ceased as an inquisition worthy of the security services tried to establish whether Mr Oates himself had fed to the press the news of his ambitions to topple the chairman. Even Dame Stella was unable to extract a confession, but the news that Mr Oates is leaving abruptly, and against his wishes, is an indication of the board's view.

As the City was swept with rumour of blood flowing in the corridors of the nation's favourite, but faltering, retailer, the non-executives decided that they had no option but to tackle the succession issue decisively. With some of their number, including Sir Martin Jacob, the Prudential chairman, away on business, they had to settle for a minimum quorum of three at their meetings, generally held at Baker Street, where Mr Baldock was already based.


They took the crucial decision that the City had been clamouring for and decreed that Sir Richard should split his job in two, becoming a non-executive chairman. If Mr Oates were going, they could not afford to dispense completely with the services of the man who had run the business for so long. But they did cut short his term of office: Sir Richard had been intent on staying until he hit 65 in 2002.

The next task for the emergency squad was to find a chief executive. The idea of bringing in an outsider was rapidly dismissed. Officially, they believed that a company like M&S should offer as good a pool of talent as anywhere outside. Unofficially, they knew that no outsider could be expected to work with Sir Richard: it would not have been possible for either party.


There then began the extraordinary task of weighing up the contenders for the job. Mr Baldock, Dame Stella and whoever else could be assembled interviewed every divisional director, flying them in from America and the Far East when necessary.

Mr Salisbury was considered the favourite from the start. His experience had taken him through many divisions of M&S, including merchandise and personnel. But there were challengers, including Chris Littmoden, currently based in the United States.

At lunchtime on Wednesday, the non-executives told the 48-year-old Mr Salisbury that they were recommending him for the job. A board meeting yesterday afternoon rat-




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A shortage that tells own story

WITHOUT its own library or enough books, King's Road Primary School in Manchester is forced to walk its pupils in a crocodile up to the local public library to track down their favourite authors.

Pupils are keen to read and literacy schemes in the school have been an enormous success. All that is holding pupils back is a lack of resources.

Monica Galt, the head teacher, says pupils constantly ask for more titles. "We have pupil representatives who meet with teachers in a school council. They ask us every time if they can have more to read. They just eat the books up. We need so, so many more."

The school benefited from the two government handouts of £1,000 this year to spend on books, but pupil demand easily outstretches this. "We have 80 per cent ethnic-minority pupils. They have to learn English early and from scratch and, to do this, they need exciting and attractive books," Ms Galt said.

The school has already begun a "Reading Buddy" scheme in which younger pupils read to their senior counterparts and vice versa.

"Children love it. Encouraging them to read is no problem here. But having enough of the new books to keep their fascination alive often is," Ms Galt said.

The school also conducts book reviews, reading weeks and is following the National Year of Reading programme.

"If you can get them reading young, you can feed their imagination. To read is to give them access to the national curriculum and teach them independent learning which is fundamental to their future success in education," Ms Galt said.



Crocodile to the library: children from King's Road Primary School, in Old Trafford. The school cannot afford enough books of its own

Struggling schools set for reading bonanza

John O'Leary and Victoria Fletcher report on the difficulties facing under-resourced librarians

SHEILA RAISBECK, a school librarian, has first-hand experience of a school being held back by a shortage of books. Woodway Park School and Community College in Coventry failed its Ofsted inspection in January, and poor resourcing was high on the list of criticisms. Mrs Raisbeck said pupils and staff were desperate for new books to help to foster an interest in reading.

The school, which has 750 pupils and serves a deprived area of the city, has half the number of books recommended by the Government. Eleven-year-olds arriving there already have very low levels in reading, often equivalent to that of a seven-year-old, and the shortage makes it hard to raise standards.

Ofsted inspectors noted the dire state of library resources, stating: "There are shortages of resources, including textbooks. The school library is generally under-resourced with a very low ratio of books per pupil in comparison to the national average."

Mrs Raisbeck hopes that the Free Books for Schools scheme will largely solve the problem. The school has already made plans for a reading club, homework club and reading partnership scheme when the new books arrive.

"Our budget is stretched to the limit," Mrs Raisbeck said. "What we could get from this scheme would be wonderful."

We could not only top up our textbooks but get more horror stories, which seems to be the stuff really capturing the children's imagination at the moment. Anything new, anything which is 'the latest' and is nicely illustrated is snapped up."

She added: "Our parents helped get a computer by collecting supermarket coupons. They often feel that these schemes are a small way they can make contributions to the school. It's a community activity. Even dining room assistants will sell their friends and neighbours to save tokens and pool them for the school. Everyone knows the situation we are in and how we have to change it."

Woodway Park's predicament is typical of many state schools. A study to be published next year will show that, on average, schools have less than two thirds of the books they need to deliver the national curriculum, in spite of millions of pounds of government money devoted to book-buying.

Researchers have found that 60 per cent of primary school children and more than half of those in secondary schools are having to share books in class. In many schools, the desire to equip libraries with the latest

information technology is adding to the squeeze on budgets. The Government is so concerned about the stock of books that it gave every state school £1,000 to buy books last spring. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, repeated the gesture in September to coincide with the start of the Year of Reading. However, surveys commissioned by publishers and librarians suggest the initiatives will still leave schools, particularly in the secondary sector, short of key texts.

Guidelines issued by the Library Association suggest that secondary schools need an average of 15 books per pupil to cover the national curriculum adequately. The association's last survey showed that the national average was only nine.

Trish Botter, its adviser on school libraries, said: "We are carrying out another survey this year, but it is unlikely that the position will have changed significantly. We are in the process of drawing up primary school guidelines and, although they have benefited more than secondary schools from the Government's initiatives, there is a serious shortfall there too."

Glenys Willars, who chairs the Library Association's school

libraries group, added: "Obviously, £1,000 goes a lot further in a primary school than a secondary school. The government money has been very welcome, but our audits show that a substantial proportion of books in school libraries are more than 20 years old, so there is a lot of work to be done."

Michael Johnson, of Keele University, who has conducted a series of surveys on the availability of books in schools, said: "There has been a gradual drip away of funding for books since schools took control of their own budgets. Governors are anxious to keep class sizes as small as possible, and other areas feel the pressure."

Keele's latest survey of 8,000 pupils, conducted for the Educational Publishers' Council, showed that growing numbers were having to share "dog-eared and tatty" books. The last national survey by the Library Association showed repeated budget cuts threatening school library services. Several have closed in recent years, leaving schools without expert advice on purchasing and the renewal of stock.

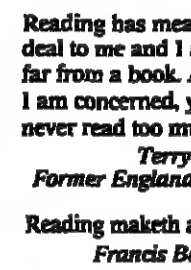
Kathy Lemaire, executive secretary of the School Libraries Association, whose own service in Oxfordshire closed last year, said: "One of my main

concerns is that too many schools fail to recognise that books get out of date and need to be thrown away."

John Davies, the chief executive of the Educational Publishers' Council, said book-buying budgets had been under pressure for 25 years. "We are trying to convince ministers that they must keep up this level of support because they have a number of plans in the pipeline, such as the review of the national curriculum and the reform of sixth form qualifications, which will also require heavy spending on books."



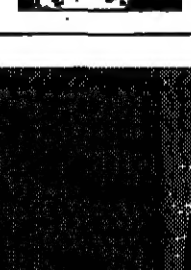
He hath never fed of the dainties that are bred of a book: he hath not eat paper, as it were; he hath not drunk ink: his intellect is not replenished: he is only an animal, only sensible in duller parts.
William Shakespeare, Love's Labour Lost, 1595



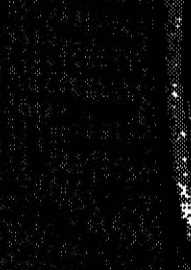
Reading has meant a great deal to me and I am never far from a book. As far as I am concerned, you can never read too much.
Terry Venables, Former England manager



Reading maketh a full man.
Francis Bacon, 1597



There has been no greater pleasure to me at home than reading books to and with my children.
Simon Jenkins, page 24



The best thing about books is that there are no bad actors. Books are a great form of escapism.
John Cleese (actor)

The enduring magic that lies behind the wardrobe

By Sarah Johnson

IT IS hard to imagine what children's literature — not to mention walk-in wardrobes — would be like without the Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis, whose centenary falls this weekend.

He used the idea of a parallel universe visited by boys and girls as an experiment in explaining difficult theological concepts to children; but the books have ended up being more influential than he could ever have imagined.

The appeal of the author, five of whose books are included in the Free Books for Schools scheme, was summed up by the ex-Spice Girl Geri Halliwell: "I fell in love with the magic land of Narnia and wanted to go there."

Lewis was born on November 29, 1898, and began writing the Narnia stories for his god-daughter half a century ago. They were published between 1950 and 1956 and have stirred the imaginations of successive generations. In April, on World Book Day, Tony



The Narnia stories have appealed to generations of children

Blair and Peter Mandelson named Lewis among their favourite childhood authors. Another who came under Lewis' spell was Liam Gallagher, the Oasis singer. He said: "The best book I ever read was The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. When I was ten, I love the idea of opening a cupboard door, you step inside and there's a lion and you're being chased through the snow."

Such is the continued fascination with Lewis' best-known children's book that the Royal Shakespeare Company has just begun a new stage adaptation.

Narnia, the fantasy world Lewis created, is a temperate, maritime country, with gently rolling, wooded hills and rivers meandering through green valleys. Men live mainly in the pleasant market town of Beruna, leaving the countryside to talking animals, who are an old-fashioned English gentleman's idea of the perfect rural labouring class. To the north lies rugged moorland inhabit-

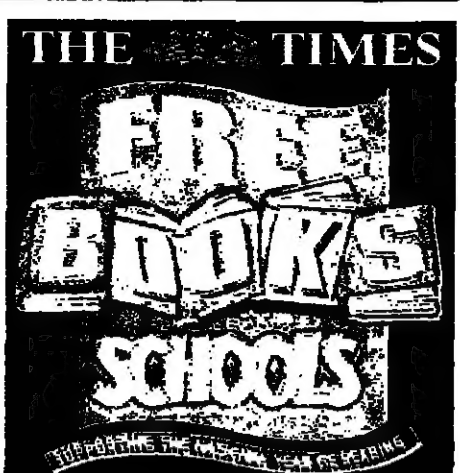
ed by giants; to the south, the mountainous Archenland resembles Wales. Further south there is a desert and the land of the Calormen, a cruel olive-skinned race with a despotic king and a hideous god, Tash.

Lewis' agenda was overtly Christian. He takes children with great skill through key aspects of Christian doctrine so that they rarely spot what is happening. Lewis later wrote that he saw the Narnia stories as an answer to the question: "What might Christ be like if there really were a world like Narnia and he chose to be incarnate and die and rise again in that world as he actually has done in ours?"

Children who are enraged at the torture of Aslan in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, then weep with joy when he comes alive again and redeems Narnia from eternal winter, are responding to the story of Christ's Passion. By transferring it to another universe, Lewis freed children to feel emotions that they may not have experienced at Sunday school.

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- 6 Books unavailable at the time of ordering will be dispatched within ten weeks.
- 7 Promoters: News International, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XX; Walkers Snack Foods, Thurmarston, Leicester LE4 8BS.



Blunkett welcomes campaign

DAVID BLUNKETT called upon parents, children and teachers to join the Free Books for Schools scheme to give classroom bookshelves the boost they need.

The Education Secretary, who has made higher literacy standards a priority, said: "I welcome this innovative and significant project. The National Year of Reading is designed to support the work of teachers in schools by involving the whole community in our drive to raise standards of literacy."

He added: "The Walkers/News International Free Books for Schools scheme is an excellent example of how business can get involved on a national scale. We are committed to raising standards of literacy and we are asking the nation to join this campaign. The Walkers/News International initiative will help encourage children, their friends and families to become even more involved in reading."

Professor Michael Barber, head of standards and effectiveness at the Department for Education, said: "The Walkers/News International reading promotion is just the kind of innovative partnership we are encouraging as part of the National Year of Reading — it will give many people the opportunity to help put more books into schools."

David Hart, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The Walkers/News International reading promotion is the biggest of its type ever and will make a massive contribution to the number of new books for schools in the new academic year — without hitting overstretched budgets. With the right help from parents, millions of much needed free books will be enjoyed by pupils in our schools."

Schools that have registered for the scheme are delighted with the offer. Helen Yeoman, from Bodringall Primary School, Mid-Glamorgan, said the school would use it to obtain books to appeal to boys. "We have found it much harder to get boys into reading. Books based around sport usually get their attention."

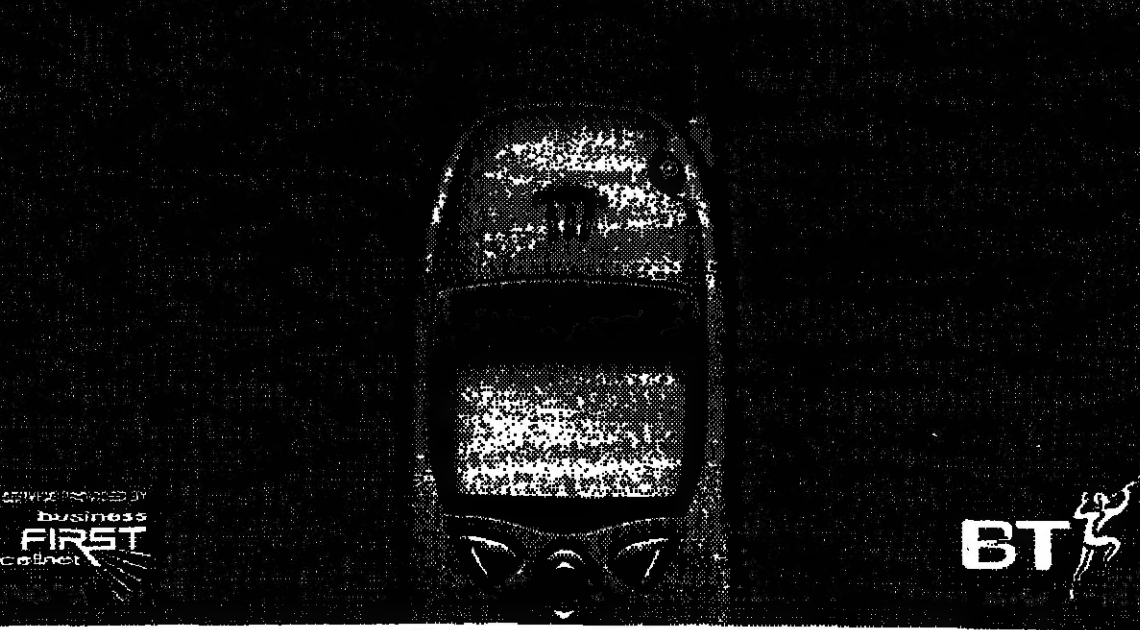
Jane Neill, the librarian at Cliftonville Middle School, Northampton, said pupils would take special interest in borrowing books they knew they had helped to buy. "Pupils always go for new books, new covers." The books would be "off the shelves in minutes especially if they helped collect for them", she said.

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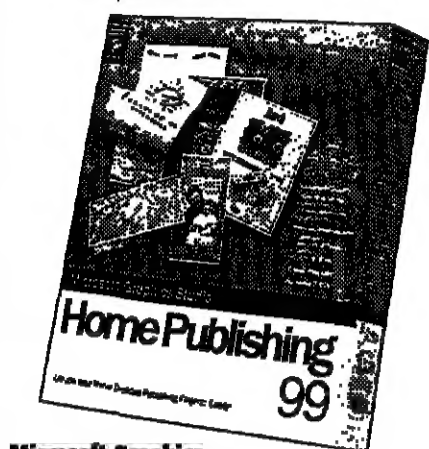
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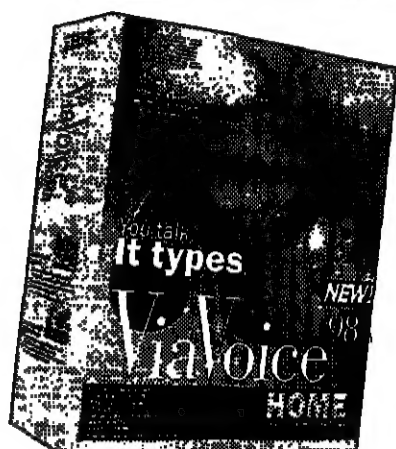
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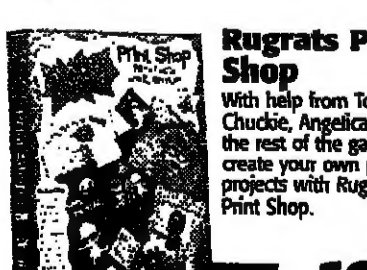
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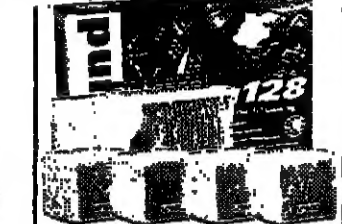
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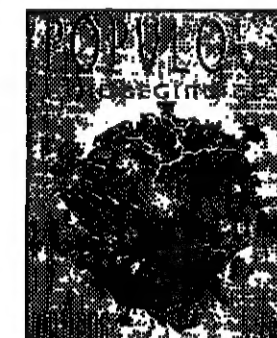
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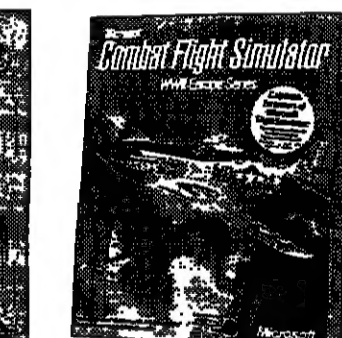
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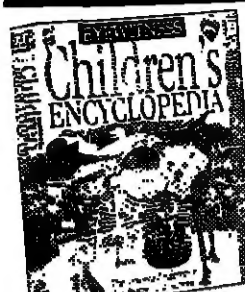
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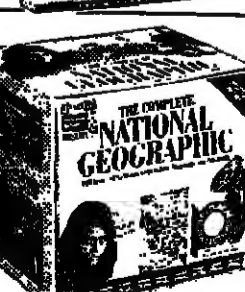
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39 radical steps to improving health of poor

Uncosted plans by inquiry team call for massive redistribution of wealth, reports Ian Murray

A RADICAL, uncosted plan to close the health gap between the rich and poor by eliminating poverty has been put forward by an independent inquiry set up 16 months ago by the Government.

Its 39-step cure for the social ills that mean the poor generally live shorter, sicker, and poorer lives, relies on a wholesale redistribution of wealth.

Among the recommendations are higher benefits and pensions, free nicotine patches, school meals and fresh fruit, fluoridation, as well as better housing and education. More training, less unemployment and improved public transport are also on the list as is the reform of the common agricultural policy and all are regarded as essential to end the inequalities in health which mean the poor can expect to live five years less than the rich.

The inquiry team, chaired by the former Chief Medical Officer, Sir Donald Acheson, makes no recommendations about how the reforms are to be funded but insists that its entire plan of 39 major recommendations and 35 minor ones must be carried out if it is to stand any chance of success.

"We believe that success will only come if implementation is across the entire board," Sir Donald said. "Cherry picking one or two of the sexy ones like nicotine replacement or fluoridation would make a difference but unless one resources them all one won't achieve much. This report goes right across Whitehall and most of the great departments of state will have to make major policy changes if much is to happen."

Sir Donald said that his team was composed entirely of scientists and did not include an economist so nothing had been costed. "We haven't looked at cost effectiveness," he said. "Affordability is not a matter for scientists but politi-

cians and we therefore await what the Government is going to do. The principle of equity underlies this report. It is a principle that transcends party politics."

To end inequality all social policies in future should be evaluated in terms of their impact on health and should be drawn up in order to minimise any bias. Action was also needed to reduce income inequalities and improve the living standards of poor households.

Sir Donald said that early indications were that the Government was prepared to follow the recommendations and was in fact already implementing some of them. "The advice we have received is that the inequalities are so great that a sustained effort will be necessary over ten years to achieve anything like what we are hoping for," he said.

Because the health of mothers was so crucial to the health of future generations, the highest possible priority had to be given to improving conditions for them, he said.

The only recommendation about taxation the report makes is for swinging increases in the amount levied on tobacco and it cites international research showing that young people will not start smoking if it is too expensive.

Underlining that income support fails to provide an adequate standard of living — even without taking into account the cost of tobacco — the

report said: "Not surprisingly, therefore, low income households where the parents smoke are much more likely to be lacking basic amenities, including food, shoes and coats than non-smoking parents on Income Support."

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, gave a warm welcome to the report, saying: "Poverty is a principal source of ill health. Poor people are ill more often and die sooner."

Anna Coote, director of the public health programme for the King's Fund, the independent healthcare think tank, said the report gave incontrovertible evidence that people paid the price of poverty with their lives. "The real test of the Government's commitment to tackling health inequalities is whether it can now ensure policies and practices are clearly focused, vigorously pursued and effectively co-ordinated," she said.



Future generations will benefit if efforts to close the health gap now are successful

Well-fed babies grow up to be more intelligent

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BABIES are more likely to be clever if they are fed well in their first few weeks, according to new research. The first big study of premature babies' feeding patterns found that those not given food with an enriched formula were relatively backward by the time they were seven or eight.

A team led by Alan Lucas, of the Medical Research Council's childhood nutrition centre, at the Institute of Child Health followed what happened to 360 premature babies born in the developed world over a 16-year period.

Professor Lucas, whose findings are published today in the *British Medical Journal*, found evidence that nutrition in early life has an important impact on the development of the brain.

Babies who were given a standard pre-term formula milk, rather than an enriched feed, had reduced verbal IQ scores when they started school. This was particularly evident in boys. Cerebral palsy was also more prevalent in

infants fed standard formula milk. The researchers say that under-nutrition did not seem to cause this condition, but it may prevent the brain compensating for an adverse event that can cause the disorder, such as a period of inadequate oxygen supply.

Premature babies are now normally given an enriched feed, containing extra protein, vitamins and minerals, but this was not the case 16 years ago, when the study began.

Thirty-one per cent of those given the standard formula had a low verbal IQ by the time they were seven or eight, compared with 14 per cent of those given the enriched formula. Among boys, 47 per cent given the standard formula had lower IQs, compared with 13 per cent given the enriched formula.

Professor Lucas said that his group and others around the world were now looking at the effect of nutrition on full-term babies. Data on this would be published over the next four or five years.

Scientist who is stickler for truth

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE man who led the inquiry into inequalities in health, Sir Donald Acheson, adheres to the rigorous and exhaustive methods of the scientist.

As a scientist, too, he has not liked getting involved in politics, although his appointment as Chief Medical Officer thrust him into the limelight. "I feel I'm putting my reputation on the line in public quite frequently in this job," he remarked. "If my scientific credibility goes, nobody will believe me so I must satisfy myself on the evidence of every issue."

Sir Donald, who retired as Chief Medical Officer in 1991, was somewhat relieved to hear that the inquiry team he had envisaged was too large; it meant he was able to dispense with the economist and produce a report on reducing health inequalities that assumed a world in which financial restraints played no part.

Born in Belfast in 1926 to a GP, Sir Donald became professor of clinical epidemiology and foundation dean of the medical school at Southampton University in 1968. He was made head of the Medical Research Council's environmental epidemiology unit, and his report on the risks posed by asbestos led to a ban on imports and to strict safety standards.

As chairman of a study group on primary care in inner London in 1981 he came up



Acheson: headed team set up by Frank Dobson

with 115 recommendations, including retirement of doctors at 65 and new standards for community nursing. He was the obvious choice as Chief Medical Officer two years later, and quickly became a feared and respected figure in Whitehall. Normally soft-spoken, he proved capable of grilling civil servants ruthlessly to find out the facts.

He persuaded the then Government to double the amount of money available for treating AIDS and drew up guidelines for treating patients which remain the gold standard.

His style is to mix science with passion. "The key thing is deciding what you want done. It's essential to get the main issues to the top of the pile and not let the details engulf you."

Independent Inquiry into Inequalities in Health (Stationery Office; £19.50)

£5m programme to find Aids vaccine

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

OXFORD scientists are to develop an Aids vaccine in the largest privately funded Aids research programme.

Professor Andrew McMichael, of Oxford University, leads one of the first two projects selected by the International Aids Vaccine Initiative in a £5.7 million programme started in London yesterday.

The Oxford team will collaborate with the University of Nairobi to produce a vaccine effective against the strain of HIV that is endemic in Africa. A second team, Alpha Vax Human Vaccines Inc. of Durham, North Carolina, and the University of Cape Town, which is taking a different

approach, is also receiving backing.

Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, said yesterday that an Aids vaccine was vital to stem the growth of the disease. Despite nearly 20 years of research, only one vaccine is in trials and, even if it proves effective, it will work only against the HIV strain found in America and Europe, where the death toll is far lower than in Africa.

The aim of the Oxford virus is not to stimulate antibodies against HIV, but to enlist a second anti-viral mechanism, killer T-cells. These are cells that home in on virus-infected cells and kill them.

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Minister pledges fair deal for leaseholders

Reforms should make it easier for flat owners to buy freeholds and run buildings, writes Rachel Kelly

A COMPREHENSIVE overhaul of the leasehold system in England and Wales was announced yesterday by Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, with a consultation paper proposing a fairer deal for the country's two million leaseholders.

New rights would allow flat owners to take over the management of their blocks without having to persuade a court that the landlord is incompetent, negligent or dishonest. Leasehold groups estimate that there are tens of thousands of disputes over decorating and repair costs each year.

Other reforms would make it easier for flat owners to buy their freehold. In future, those living in blocks of flats above shops would be able to buy the freehold if the flats constitute just 75 per cent of the building. Instead of the 90 per cent currently required. At present, only buildings in which there are at least nine storeys of residential property above one of commercial property qualify, but under the new proposals, the far more common buildings which have three or four storeys of residential flats

above a shop would qualify. Ms Armstrong said: "The leasehold system is flawed to its roots and we are committed to reform it. Previous attempts have just been tinkering with the odd element. They have not worked. Abuses still flourish, causing misery and frustration to many leaseholders."

Ms Armstrong said that the Government was committed to finding time within the life of the current parliament to implement the long-awaited reforms, which were a manifesto commitment.

They would also see stricter control of agents employed by landlords to manage property, who can often be custodians of large sums but need no professional qualifications. If agents did not produce satisfactory self-regulatory systems, Ms Armstrong said, the Government would consider setting up a licensing system.

The Government is also to seek ways of curbing the ability of landlords to threaten to take possession of leasehold flats over small breaches of a lease, such as a minor delay in paying ground rent. Such threats of "forfeiture" can re-



Armstrong: she plans to curb threats of forfeiture

sult in people handing over large sums to avoid legal action.

Other proposals to make it easier for leaseholders to buy freeholds include relaxing the current residence test. Under existing rules, half of any group of leaseholders seeking to buy their freehold must prove that the property had been their main home for the previous 12 months, but under the proposed reforms they would need only to prove that it had been their main home from the time that they served notice to their landlord that they wished to enfranchise.

Nick Raynsford, the junior housing minister, said: "Our overall objective is to provide leaseholders with the opportunity to reap the full benefits of

owner occupation and to have control over the way in which their homes are managed."

Peter Haler, of the Leasehold Advisory Service, which advises both leaseholders and freeholders, said: "We are delighted that tenants will have the right to manage their flats although we are worried how it will work. There needs to be a very clear set of rules or else tenants will be at each other's throats."

Mr Haler also welcomed the plans to curb the threat of forfeiture, but said that those leaseholders whose landlords had been excluded from the right to manage their blocks.

"Some of the worst problems occur in the public sector," Mr Haler said. "There is an assumption that public sector landlords are good blokes, but many are inefficient and we constantly have cases of leaseholders having problems with their service charges."

Richard Lambert, of the British Property Federation, which represents landlords including the Grosvenor Estate, welcomed the proposals and said that landlords too would benefit from a fairer and less complicated system.

"We wish for the abuses of the bad landlords to be curbed without putting too much of a burden on the reputable landlords," he said.



Anna Stothard unveiling the Millennium Sculpture

A millennium sculpture for changing times

By Alan Hamilton

WHEN *The Times* first saw the light of day, the millennium was still 215 years away. We are still here, and yesterday, with only 400 days left, we unveiled our own countdown to the new century.

The *Times* Millennium Sculpture is a dramatic addition to one of the capital's busiest junctions, where Earl's Court Road meets the Cromwell Road on its way to Heathrow airport and the West. It is a celebration both of changing times and of unchanging time.

Six metres high and of polished steel, the sculpture contains two millennium countdown clocks and an electronic display carrying up-to-the-minute headlines from *The Times* website.

Anna Stothard, 15, daughter of the Editor of *The Times*, pulled a cord to reveal the sculpture and to release 400 silver balloons. "I thought it should be unveiled by someone with a longer commitment to the new millennium than a 47-year old editor," her father, Peter Stothard, said. Anna thought the millennium "an opportunity to shed all the worst of the past and find the best of the future".

The sculpture is intended to mirror the evolving newspaper. "The story of the past five

years has been of changing times. That is the message of this newspaper for the new millennium, and the sculpture is a reflection of that," Mr Stothard said.

Cristina Garcia, the Spanish-born architect who designed the sculpture for the 4i group, said that it celebrated the millennium in a way that recognised the history of time, and the importance of the Greenwich Meridian from which all time and distance are measured. A vertical mast representing Longitude 0 bisects two segments of the globe, suggesting the 24 time zones around the world.

Once the countdown clocks reach zero, they will revert to conventional tellers of time, and the sculpture, engineered by the Atelier One company, will remain in place throughout 2000.

Counting down to the millennium can be an inexact science. Another countdown clock in Piccadilly Circus was seen earlier this week to be wrong by four days. There is also the small matter of the entire world celebrating the new century a year too early. But public opinion will not be shaken from its desire to celebrate the round number, and blow the mathematical niceties. Only 399 days to go.

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Asthma mites found in cereals

By Michael Hornsby
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

MITES that can trigger asthma and other allergies have been found in a wide range of breakfast cereals and other foods.

Scientists working for the Ministry of Agriculture detected the moist, soft-bodied bugs, less than half a millimetre long, in a fifth of cereal-based products on sale in England and Wales. The 567 samples that were analysed included breakfast cereals, baby food, biscuits, bread, cakes and flour.

Twenty-one per cent of the samples contained mites. The most frequently infested items were flour (28 per cent), bread (25 per cent), biscuits (20 per cent) and cereals (19 per cent).

Ken Wileby, of the Central Science Laboratory at York, who led the research, said: "We do not yet know whether eating these small amounts has any health implications."

Charlotte's mother in court

MICHELLE Jones, 24, was remanded in custody by Warrington magistrates yesterday accused of abandoning her three-year-old daughter, Charlotte, and causing her grievous bodily harm with intent. Later Charlotte left hospital in the care of social services staff after receiving treatment for mild hypothermia. She was found in woods on Tuesday after a 30-hour disappearance.

CORRECTIONS

A report (November 25) headed "Slave hotel" of Saudi prince angers Egypt, about Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz, was illustrated by a photograph of a man said to be Prince Turki. In fact, it was Prince Turki Mohammed bin Saud al-Kabir, who is not in any way involved with the activities of Prince Turki. We apologise for the embarrassment caused to Prince Turki. □ DNA Films asks us to make clear that Vinnie Jones has not been cast for the film *Mike Bassett: England Manager* (report, November 24).

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Judge loses

Countdown to the new century

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DAY NOVEMBER 27 1998
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BY ALAN HAMILTON
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THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27 1998

HOME NEWS 13

Judge in fraud case loses claim for costs

Court rules that, though not proven guilty, he was not a successful defendant, reports Tim Jones

A JUDGE who escaped a second fraud trial after doctors said the ordeal could drive him to suicide has failed in his unprecedented attempt to have his legal costs refunded. Judge Richard Gee's application is believed to be the first time a defendant has applied for his costs without having first been shown to be innocent. It had never been submitted, she said, that the evidence



Judge Richard Gee now negotiating his pension

against the judge had been insufficient to warrant a trial or to support the charges made. She added: "Although it cannot be said he brought suspicion on himself or misled the prosecution, there was a clear case for him to answer and, but for his ill health, the law would have taken its normal course and there would have been a retrial. The prosecution has not altered its stance on that."

Judge Gee's first trial, which lasted for three months and is estimated to have cost £3 million, ended when a jury, after deliberating for 13 days, failed to reach a verdict. The judge, who has been receiving his full salary of £87,000 a year since his arrest three years ago, had been hoping to win back more than £70,000 he contributed to

est rates. The properties were then let out for business use at a profit. At the time of the alleged fraud, the judge was acting as a solicitor while also sitting as a recorder. He was appointed a full-time judge in 1991. Last month John Morris, QC, the Attorney-General, caused controversy when, after studying medical evidence, he employed a rarely used procedure to end the case. Judge Gee, who is married to the New York socialite Marilyn Gross and has at least two homes, in London and New York, was not in the Old Bailey yesterday to hear he had lost. Mrs Justice Steel said that the Attorney-General had considered Judge Gee's health and noted that he had not personally benefited from the alleged fraud. She said it was now clear that the case would not be reopened. Judge Gee is now believed to be negotiating to gain early retirement with a non-contributory pension fund thought to be in the region of £500,000.



Gary Glitter outside court yesterday after being committed to stand trial

Glitter to be tried on sex charges

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE pop star Gary Glitter was committed to stand trial yesterday on a series of child sex and pornography charges. Glitter, 54, has been charged under his real name, Paul Gadd, of making 50 indecent photographs of children, and with 50 alternative counts of possessing indecent photographs of children. He faces a further four charges of indecent assault involving a young girl, and four other charges alleging serious sexual offences involving a girl. The sex allegations date back as far as 1975. The "glam rock" star arrived at North Avon Magistrates' Court, at Yate, near Bristol, in a black leather coat over a velvet suit. The stipendiary magistrate, Tim Workman, committed him to stand trial at Bristol Crown Court, where a preliminary hearing will be held on January 18. Reporting restrictions were not lifted and Glitter was released on bail.

Friend is cleared of balcony killing

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE family of a man killed in a fall from a hotel balcony yesterday criticised an attempt to prosecute his best friend over the death. Jamie Morgan, 22, died in Ibiza last year on the first full day of his Club 18-90 holiday. Despite evidence from other friends of the dead man that the fall was an accident, police believed a claim by another English holidaymaker that he had seen 24-year-old Jason Barrow push him to his death. Barrow was arrested on suspicion of murder and later charged with manslaughter. Yesterday at Exeter Crown Court, the judge found Mr Barrow not guilty, having been told that the witness who claimed to have seen him push the dead man had been in a psychiatric hospital since the incident, and was medically unfit to testify. After the hearing, Mr Morgan's mother, Susan Godfrey, 48, from Barnstaple, Devon, said: "It was a tragic accident. We were more shocked when Jason was charged with pushing him. He is the least likely person to be involved. She added: "We are fairly sure the boys had been drinking quite a lot."

Gardener died after wasp sting on neck

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A KEEN gardener died after being stung on the neck by a wasp as he cut his lawn, an inquest in Devon was told. George Duffell, 85, who knew he was allergic to insect stings, had tried to give himself an injection of antihistamine but died within minutes with the syringe still in his hand. Richard van Opperen, the East Devon Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death on the pensioner from Tiverton, describing it as a three million-to-one chance. After the hearing at Culmpton, Mr Duffell's son, Stephen, said: "He was cutting the grass when he was stung by a wasp. He would have been dead in five minutes. He literally had just enough time to get into the house and push the care home alarm. There was a wasp's nest in the garden and he was partially sighted and probably did not know it was there. We found a wasp on his cardigan." His father had been stung before some years ago and had nearly died, and had been given an adrenaline syringe to use if he was stung again. Mr Duffell died from anaphylaxis because the sting caused a sudden swelling in his throat.

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**Dedicated to a
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By GEORGE BRIDGES

Jeremy Heywood, a high-flyer in the Treasury who is in his



Matthew Kirk, 39, who headed the EC Presidency unit, could also be in the running for the post. He moved to the European Secretariat at the Cabinet Office in July but could easily shift into Downing Street.

Leading article, page 25

By PETER RIDDELY

that "in the long term the Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's

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Residents help to clear the 20-acre site ready for construction to start

Nazareth to become site of biblical 'theme park'

AN AMBITIOUS project has been launched in Nazareth to construct a living village showing how the area would have appeared in the time Jesus Christ lived there.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held this week on the 20-acre site and organisers have begun a fundraising drive for the estimated \$60 million (£35 million) needed to complete the work. About 200 volunteers, including Christians of different denominations and Muslims from Nazareth, took part.

The Nazareth Village will operate from 2000, but con-

Archaeologists plan to recreate

Jesus's home village, writes

Ross Dunn

struction will continue for several more years. It is being built using the archaeological remains of stone watchtowers, a terraced farming landscape and a wine press, fitting the images used by Jesus in the Par-

able of the Tenants in Mark xii, 1: "A certain man planted a vineyard, and set a hedge about it and dug a place for the winevat and built a tower and let it out to husbandmen." Although little is known about Jesus's early years, it is believed that he spent most of his life in Nazareth before starting his missionary work. The Scriptures say Christ was born in Bethlehem, and fled with his family to Egypt to escape King Herod.

He then returned to Nazareth in Galilee, where he worked as a builder or carpenter until he was about 30. That

Jesus might have once walked the very land on which the project is being built seems probable, given that during his lifetime there were only 300 villagers in Nazareth and all would have worked together at harvest time.

Ross Joseph Voss, the archaeologist at the site, said locals from present-day Nazareth will dress in 1st-century attire and perform tasks such as weaving and farming in the village. "We want this to be a living village, people on the land are actually going to be working, not acting, pruning the olive trees, pressing the vine-

yards, pressing the oil," said Michael Hostetler, the project's director.

The staff will also assume the role of storytellers and explain the early life of Jesus. "We want storytellers, who will take on the role of a sandal-maker for example, a farmer, or a homemaker," said Mr Hostetler.

Visitors could be given the option of wearing robes (wool in winter and linen in summer) and sandals, and joining in activities such as treading grapes to produce wine. Mr Voss said the aim was to reproduce biblical life. "It was a lit-

tle dirty, a little smelly and a little rough," he said. "People today are insulated from the rural lifestyle and they have really no awareness of what it might have been like."

A diverse group of Christians, including Jimmy Carter, the former US President, and Pat Boone, the American entertainer, are helping in the effort to raise funds for the Nazareth Village, which will be run by a non-profit, non-denominational organisation. There are also plans for a study centre, an interactive educational museum and a restaurant.

Modern Nazareth is a predominantly Muslim city of 60,000, jammed with buildings and traffic. Stephen Pfann, director of the Centre for the Study of Early Christianity in Jerusalem, said the village project could boost tourism and provide work and revenue for the local people. "I suppose you could also call it a theme park," he said.

"Here you have a piece of property that is nearly contiguous with the original village and it just happens by chance or by miracle that it has not been developed. Everything else is covered with concrete

and dug up and covered over." The restoration work is being conducted under the supervision of Mark Goodman, an Israeli architectural conservationist, who has worked with the Israeli Antiquities Authority. "We take very much care to continue the original technique, the original materials and style, so that it is an authentic restoration," he said.

Mr Goodman said the village would have widespread appeal. "It is essentially a Jewish village from biblical times, in a modern Arab town and it is most meaningful for Christians," he said.

Israel attacks Britain on 'closed' Holocaust files

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL is demanding greater access to international archives on the Holocaust era and has published a controversial "blacklist" of repositories it claims have put obstacles in the way of researchers, including Britain's M15.

The list, which has prompted a denial from British officials and those of other countries, was made public in advance of a 44-nation conference on Hol-

ocaust-era assets which opens in Washington on Monday.

Delegates will discuss looted art, insurance, communal property and the opening of files belonging to firms and public agencies. In a letter released this week, Bobby Brown, adviser on Diaspora affairs to the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, named a dozen archives in Europe and Russia that allegedly "have refused or have been unco-operative in sharing information". Among the state institutions named

are the M15 intelligence agency and the files of the British Custodian of Enemy Property, as well as the French National Archives, the Vatican archives and the central state archives and Prague Jewish Museum in the Czech Republic.

Mr Brown told the Associated Press news agency that the British Custodian had allowed historians to look at Second World War bank accounts, but not records of safe deposit boxes.

A Home Office spokesman said: "To the best of our knowledge there is nothing

on M15 files that is relevant to the Holocaust." The Israeli letter said: "We appeal to each institution listed to open their files so that we may learn why civilised society failed in its basic commitment to ensure the safety, lives and property of our people."

Philippe Delaval, head of the French National Archives, said he was "astounded" by the accusation, and Jan Dekker, a Czech Interior Ministry spokesman, said: "We have given them everything they wanted."

Party gets in a stew over pork

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

RELIGIOUS Jews are up in arms because some commentators have blamed pork price rises for last month's 3 per cent rise in inflation (Christopher Walker writes).

Hatshef, the National Religious Party paper, said yesterday it was "an odious disgrace" that profane meat was

included in the price index. "This is not the Jewish state that we all yearned for," the paper said.

Jonathan Katz, an economist, said that pork jumped by an unusual 54 per cent last month, "but it can hardly take all the blame in an unusual month when the shekel was devalued by 9 per cent". For many years a few kib-

butzim have specialised in the production of pork in elevated buildings, kept off the ground so that the animals do not touch Jewish soil, and sold under the euphemistic name of "white steak".

But since the immigration of a million citizens of the former Soviet Union in recent years, pork selling has become much more open.

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CULTURE
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Tom Stoppard's latest film script looks Oscar-bound

MAGAZINE
Dorinda McCann, chambermaid turned reporter, hits Las Vegas.
Fear? A little. Loathing? A lot.
Held out in the Welsh mother's account of her great adventure

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Ex-President flees sex case



Banana: may be seeking Anglican Church help

BOTSWANA police promised last night to hunt down the Rev Canaan Banana, the former President of Zimbabwe, who fled across the border before his conviction in Harare yesterday on 11 charges of homosexual abuse.

Banana, the Methodist minister who served as Zimbabwe's first head of state, was convicted by Harare High Court yesterday. Judge Godfrey Chidyausiku delivered his verdict in an empty dock. He was told that Banana, 62, had jumped bail and fled into neighbouring Botswana about a week ago, where he was applying for political asylum.

The judge ordered warrants for Banana's arrest to be issued.

Zimbabwe hunts guilty Banana after he jumps bail, Jan Raath reports

sued, revoked his bail of about £320 and impounded the title deeds to his mansion in suburban Harare.

Botswana police said that they would search for Banana. Edwin Baishu, Botswana's Deputy Police Commissioner, said that Banana had not presented himself to any police station or any border authority when he entered the country. "The man is now a criminal and we have means to extradite him," he said.

A Botswana official said it was possible that Banana had

of the struggle against white rule who was revered as a national father figure.

His trial in June heard 18 days of sordid evidence of how he tried to use his authority as President to force ten young men into having sex with him. They included his air force, police and intelligence service aides and bodyguards, a cook and a gardener at his official residence and a hitchhiker.

He is known to have succeeded with only one. The others said they escaped his advances, one by screaming for help from Banana's wife, Janet, and another by throwing him into a swimming pool.

Mr Chikumba said Banana's diplomatic passport, issued to him as former head of state, and his ordinary passport were in the authorities' hands; he could only have crossed the border illegally.

Security sources believe that he went on foot through the thick thorn bush of Zimbabwe's border with Botswana, the same route he had used 26 years ago when the Rhodesian authorities refused to give him a passport to take up an appointment as a university chaplain in Washington DC.

Reports in Harare said that Banana was in the village of Mogodishane, about three miles from the Botswana capital, Gaborone, where he had asked for help from the Anglican Church there.

WORLD IN BRIEF

100 die in India's latest rail tragedy

Delhi: At least 100 people died yesterday in India's latest train disaster, confirming the appalling safety record of the world's busiest rail network (Christopher Thomas writes). It happened before dawn at Kauri in Punjab, a small town near Ludhiana, when a Calcutta-bound train crashed into ten derailed carriages from the Amritsar-bound Frontier Mail. Derailing is a constant danger on Indian railways because of poor maintenance of track and rolling stock. More than 250 people were injured and the death toll is likely to rise substantially over the coming days. The state government of Punjab ordered hospitals to treat the injured without charge.

World hunger grows

Rome: The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said that the number of chronically hungry people in the world was rising and that the Asian financial crisis could spell even more pain for the poor. The Rome-based agency, which in 1996 hosted a world food summit that aimed to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, said in an annual *State of Food and Agriculture* report that the number of severely undernourished people in developing countries rose to 828 million in 1994-96 from 822 million in 1990-92. (Reuters)

Singapore relents

Singapore: Singapore dropped all restrictions on the movements of Chia Thye Poh, 57, a former political prisoner who had been held without trial for 23 years. The former socialist MP was arrested in October 1966 and accused of being a communist. He was freed in 1989 but confined to a fortress on an island off Singapore. In 1992 he was allowed to work in Singapore, and later allowed to reside there. But the Government warned him not to get involved in political activities. (AP)

Report clears Moi

Nairobi: The Kenyan Government has issued a report on the 1990 murder of the country's Foreign Minister, Robert Ouko, right. It has cleared the President and Nicholas Biwott, a powerful Cabinet minister, of any blame. Ouko's charred and shot body was found in western Kenya in February 1990. The killing prompted a crisis for the Government of President Moi. The murder has still to be solved. (Reuters)



Miners killed in fraud

Beijing: Chinese police have arrested 12 out of 38 people suspected of killing 22 coal miners in staged accidents so they could claim compensation from bosses, state radio reported. The ring killed the miners in 20 cases in various provinces over a two-year period. They tricked people into working in coal mines, then staged accidents, including roof falls and explosions, or beat miners to death before posing as relatives to claim compensation. (AFP)

Taiwan tunnel studied

Beijing: Scholars and experts are discussing the possibility of building a tunnel under the Taiwan Strait to link China and Taiwan, the official Xinhua news agency reported. The idea was put forward by Wu Zhiming of Beijing's Qinghua University, which has a centre for feasibility studies. Participants at the symposium in Xiamen, southern China, include China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United States and Japan. China and Taiwan have been separated since 1949. (AFP)

Heavy metal

Names: The world's biggest bell is to be made in a foundry here next month before being shipped to the US for the millennium celebrations. It will be installed in a shopping complex in Newport, Kentucky. The bell, weighing about 30 tonnes with a 13ft diameter, will be made by Pacard foundries, founded in 1796, whose 30 employees specialise in casting bells and ship propellers. Pacard is the only firm in France capable of casting such a large amount of metal. (AFP)

CBS showed mercy killing 'to help ratings'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE screening of a video showing a patient receiving a lethal injection, which led to a murder charge against Dr Jack Kevorkian, has provoked accusations that American television networks will do anything to boost ratings.

CBS has had to mount a vigorous defence of its decision to show the tape of the death of Thomas Youk, a terminally ill patient whom Dr Kevorkian, an enthusiastic proponent of the "right to die" was seen injecting with deadly drugs.

After the footage was shown on CBS's flagship current affairs programme *60 Minutes* on Sunday evening, a Michigan prosecutor watched an unedited version of the tape and charged Dr Kevorkian with first-degree murder. The doctor got the show down he wanted and *60 Minutes* had its biggest audience of the season.

Advertisers dropped out before the screening, but they were replaced quickly. Ratings were up by 11 per cent in 44 markets nationwide, making it the network's top-rated show of the week.

CBS has been deluged with criticism because the show was aired during the crucial November "sweeps" in which ratings are taken for use in setting advertising rates. CBS's year-on-year prime-time ratings are down by 5.2 per cent and it has the oldest viewer profile among the networks as they all fight to keep their audiences in the face of stiff competition from cable television.

Religious groups have been up in arms over the death itself and other media organisations and commentators have accused CBS of stooping to the lowest common denominator. "One can just imagine the culture and ratings chase that produces something like this," said Sanford Ungar, Dean of American University's School of Communication.

ABC previously has shown a Dutch documentary about euthanasia, but excised a portion of the film in which a patient was shown dying.

Don Hewitt, executive producer of *60 Minutes*, was moved to write a letter countering criticism in *The New York Times*. "We respect the views of those who contend that we may not have been prudent in broadcasting [the programme]," he said. "However, there is absolutely no justification for [the] suggestion that we ran the story because it was a ratings sweep week. In our 30 years on the air we have never done anything to pander to a sweeps week."

"We ran this story when it was ready to be published - not a minute sooner, not a minute later. With the issue of euthanasia a matter of public discourse now as never before, we feel strongly that the story - exactly as we told it - was a fit and proper one for us, or anyone, to tell."



Kevorkian: has the legal showdown he wanted



Frederick Cook's claim to have conquered Mount McKinley in Alaska won him backing for the race to the North Pole. New evidence suggests he was a charlatan

American mountain conquest 'a hoax'

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE discovery of an uncorroborated version of the famous photograph purporting to show the conquest of Mount McKinley is being claimed as the strongest evidence yet that the ascent was a hoax.

In 1906 the American explorer, Dr Frederick Cook, took a picture of his companion, Edward Barrill, atop America's highest peak. He was hailed as a hero and given backing to trek to the North Pole. His claim to be the first man to the pole was discredited, and for 90 years there has been speculation about the authenticity of the McKinley climb.

The new evidence about the photograph appears to confirm suspicions that the only summit he reached was that of Fake Peak. The print was unearthed by Robert Bryce, the author of a book about Cook's rivalry with the explorer Robert Peary, in papers given to Ohio University.

Taken from Cook's negative it shows a wider vista than that which was printed in his account of the climb, *To the Top of the Continent*.

The broader shot shows geographical features that appear to prove that Barrill was not standing at 20,320ft on the Alaskan summit but 19 miles away at an elevation of just 5,000ft.

"I don't think Cook ever had any intention of going to the summit," wrote Mr Bryce in an exploration journal. "He apparently spotted this feature that he thought he could pass off as the summit and it was easy to stage the photograph because Barrill had to climb only a few hundred feet above the glacier floor."

Cook's reputation did not recover. He was imprisoned in 1923 for an oil swindle.

Is this man the son of the last Tsar?

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Criminal charge threat to Clinton

FROM BRONWEN MADDOCK IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR has threatened to bring criminal charges against President Clinton after he leaves the White House, raising a vision of the two adversaries locked in combat for years.

That spectre, which is bound to dismay the President's advisers, came as the White House continued to try to extricate him from the more pressing threat of impeachment hearings on Capitol Hill.

Asked whether the independent prosecutor might consider indicting Mr Clinton after he leaves office in January 2001, Mr Starr's spokesman, Charles Bakaly, said: "That's fair to conclude, but I don't want to send signals here." Mr Starr's office said that even without such an indictment it would take two years to tie up loose ends.

The longer-term threat of indictment has surfaced to complicate the tangled question of the fate of the House impeachment hearings. For days, it has seemed as if many House Republicans were keen to arrange a rapid ending short of impeachment, such as a formal censure. But yesterday reports surfaced that the House Judiciary Committee has begun to draw up three articles of impeachment against the President.

The most important charge would be the allegation that Mr Clinton committed perjury when he denied under oath that he had a sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky.

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Schröder calls for big push to unify Europe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, proclaimed his commitment yesterday to the creation of a unified Europe that embraces the states of the former Soviet bloc.

The Chancellor's remarks, on his first visit to the European Commission since his election, came after calls this week for a single European state and harmonised taxes from the German Finance and Foreign Ministers.

Setting out his aims for Germany's turn next year in the EU presidency, which starts on January 1, Herr Schröder said that his vision of "an ever-integrating Europe" was the same as that of Helmut Kohl, his predecessor. "This is something that is shared by German politicians, irrespective of party affiliation," he said. He wanted "a unified Europe, one which does not stop at Germany's eastern borders".

Bonn was committed to achieving by March an agreement on future EU spending, including a cut in Germany's big net contribution to the EU budget, he said. In a reflection of fading German enthusiasm

for bringing Poland and the other Eastern states rapidly into the EU, he refused to predict a date for their eventual membership. Germany's resistance, with that of Britain and others, to any rise in EU real spending, has brought it into conflict with the southern member states and upset the five Central European Governments that have just begun negotiations for EU entry.

The Chancellor steered clear in Brussels of the federalist



De Silguy: calming British tax fears

themes that have stirred anger this week in Britain and prompted veto threats from the Government. On Monday, Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, pledged Germany would achieve agreement on harmonising certain taxes by June. German officials are still smarting at the hostile reaction in the British media by the minister's remarks. Later Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, said creating a single European state was "the decisive task of our time".

Yesterday the Commission continued its effort to calm British fears over moves to coordinate EU tax policy. Visiting London, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, Monetary Affairs Commissioner, acknowledged that there was a "growing debate on the need to eliminate tax distortion" in the EU, but that, he said, was limited to aspects of business tax and interest on some non-resident savings accounts. "This does not automatically mean that the UK will be forced to accept levels of tax which apply in other EU countries, because on this matter unanimous votes rule."



Tom Stoppard at the Comédie Française, where he became the first foreign author to see his play performed. Photographs by Peter Nicholls

Stoppard makes Paris stage history

'Thrilled' British writer sees play performed in language he finds hard to follow, Ben Macintyre reports



Arcadia on stage: 'a masterpiece of love drama'

TOM Stoppard last night became the first foreign playwright to see his work staged at the famous Salle Richelieu in the Comédie Française, but the British writer frankly admitted that he might not have understood every word in the French version of his own play.

Stoppard's play *Arcadia* has made dramatic history in France by becoming the first to be transferred directly from a foreign stage into the repertoire of the Comédie Française, a move made possible by a change in the restrictive laws governing the plays that may be performed in the French national theatre.

"I'm not going to dissemble. I'm thrilled," Stoppard said in an interview before the opening night. "It's a very good cast. My French is not very good. I can read it painstakingly, but when people are talking fast I don't follow everything."

Stoppard worked closely with the translator and adaptor, Jean-Marie Besset, who has the added advantage of being a playwright himself. "He has a foot in both camps, which is not always the case," Stoppard said. "Nothing works exactly in another language and wit is very hard to translate. Obviously one can translate the sense, and as far as I can judge he's done that, but he's also succeeded at the level of style."

The first reviews of the play, while positive, also pointed to the problems of translation. "Tom Stoppard takes us back and forth, incessantly, between today and 1809," *Le Monde* observed. "It is a rich and ambitious play, performed by excellent actors who display almost superhuman memory — Jean-Marie Besset's dialogues do not lead themselves easily to memorisation."

Before 1995, plays by foreign authors could not be performed at the Comédie Française until a time limit had elapsed, and while other British playwrights such as Shakespeare and Sheridan had their work performed there in the 19th century, this was after their deaths.

The restrictions, intended to benefit French playwrights, were lifted when a new statute was passed four years ago allowing new plays by foreign writers to pass directly to the stage at the Comédie Française.

Jean-Pierre Miquel, administrator of the theatre, said that Stoppard's *Arcadia*, a drama about love, politics, manners and a satire on intellectual vanity, was the first play by a foreign author with sufficient merit to be staged at the Salle Richelieu since the new statute was passed. "If Stoppard's *Arcadia*, after the agreement of the governing committee, is the first illustration of

this new possibility, that is because the work justified it," Miquel said.

The opening night was sold out, and tickets are selling fast for future performances, a spokesman said. The theatre, which opened in 1680, is hosting a special performance of *Arcadia* on Monday, to be attended by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, and Catherine Trautmann, the French Minister of Culture, as well as Stoppard himself.

The play, directed by Philippe Adrien, was first performed at the Vieux-Colombier theatre on the Left Bank earlier this year. Fifteen other plays by Stoppard have been translated into French.

However, while France is now officially welcoming the arrival of long-estranged foreign talent on its most prestigious stage, there may be another reason why *Arcadia* has touched a chord and received such a signal recognition here. In his introduction to the play, Jean-Marie Besset observes pointedly: "Who would have thought that Tom Stoppard, master of verbal pyrotechnics, cerebral juggler of hyper-cultivated paradoxes, would one day give us *Arcadia*, a masterpiece of love drama against a metaphysical background, doubling up as a salon comedy? Written by a British author of Czech origin, this is, so to speak, an almost French play."

Rome MP fuels row over Kurd

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY'S diplomatic crisis with Turkey over the request for political asylum by the Kurdish autonomist leader Abdullah Ocalan deepened yesterday, after it emerged that the PKK leader was accompanied to Rome from Moscow by an Italian communist MP.

Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, sought to defuse wor-

sening tension between Ankara and Rome over the affair by saying that Massimo D'Alema's centre-left Government would not give political asylum to Mr Ocalan, who is wanted by Interpol for a series of murders and is being held in the Rome area under close guard by the police.

However, Silvio Berlusconi, the opposition leader, seized on the disclosure by Ramon Mantovani, a deputy from the

hardline Communist Refoundation party, that he had accompanied Mr Ocalan on an Aeroflot flight from the Russian capital, where the Kurdish Communist Party leader went last month after being expelled from Syria.

Signor Berlusconi said that the affair had been stage-managed by pro-Moscow, anti-Nato elements within the Government and called for Mr Ocalan's expulsion from Italy.

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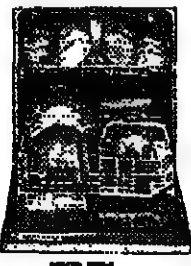


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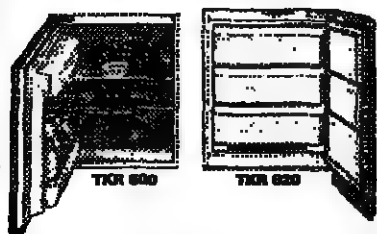
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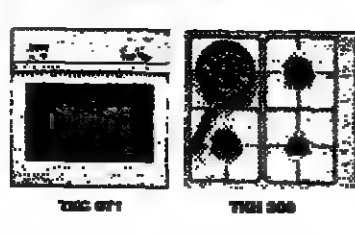
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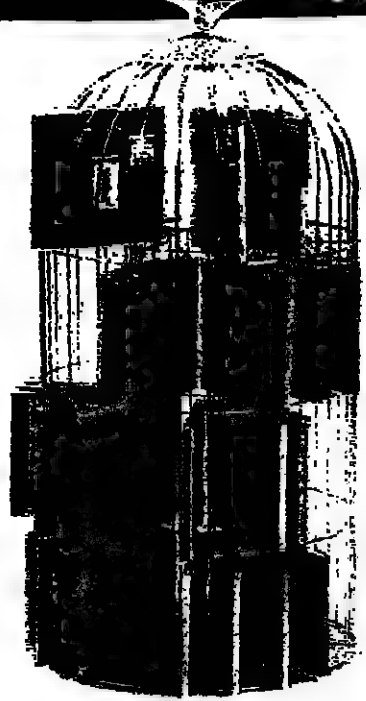
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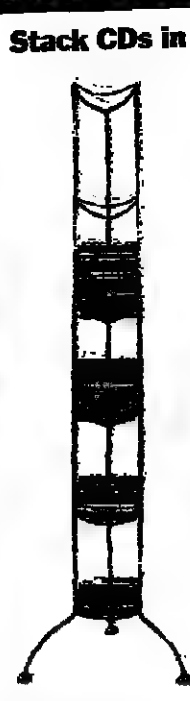
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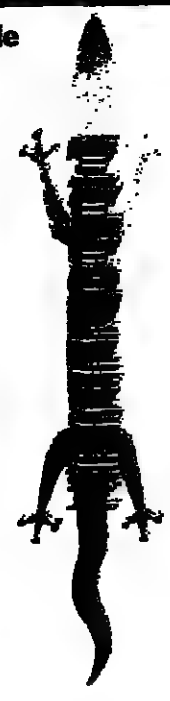
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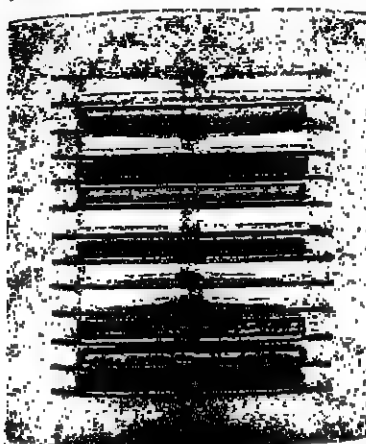
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Sleek shape but because the stand becomes marginally thinner towards the top, CDs can be stacked only in the lower three sections, rendering the top part useless.
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Objects of desire

■ If you want to avoid the head-toe Bet Lynch look, go for quality fake-fur accessories. This fantastic single-breasted, tailored coat from River Island is made from the softest short-pile fake fur. Available in natural or grey tones, it's a snip at £79.99. Wear it with a black poloneck and simple-cut trousers (0181-991 4500).



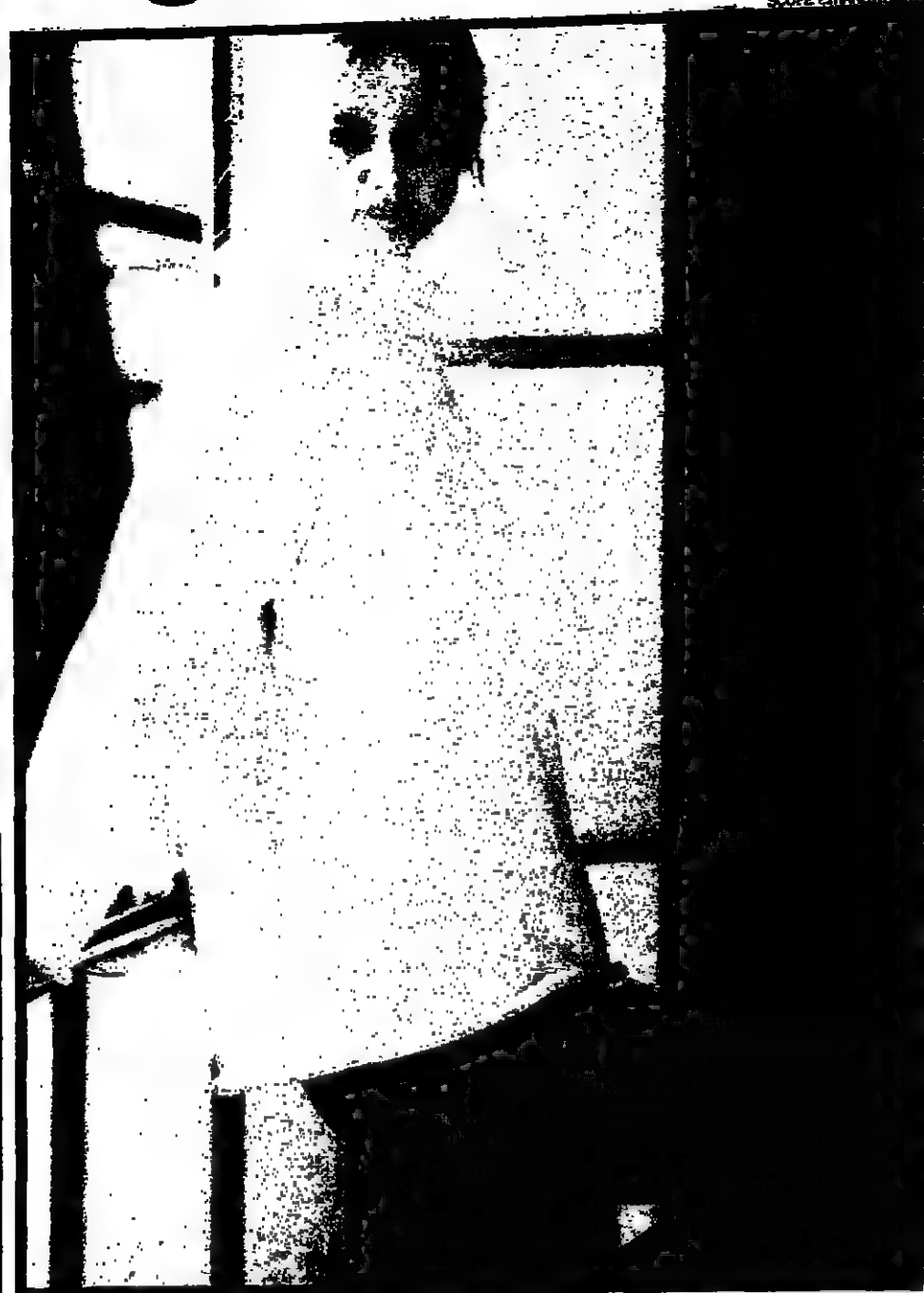
■ When fashion editors are in Paris, the first place they head for is Diptyque on Boulevard St Germain. It stocks the most beautiful scented candles, essential oils and eau de toilette in unusual fragrances. From myrrh, tea, and lemon verbena to our favourite - fig. Candle, £25.95, and eau de toilette, £35, available from Space NK Apothecary (0870-169 9999).



HOT TIP

An easy way to prevent bluing makeup and syndrome is by keeping favourite eye shadows, blushers, make-up brushes and lip colours in Marks & Spencer's special cosmetics organiser. The flip-open palettes have hinged pouches inside, which makes it easy to change colours. Organiser, £15, palettes £7 each (0171-935 4422).

Icy white winter glamour



"The natural palette for a snow princess is white — lots of it, not miserable little patches"

Possibly the most mad-dening aspect of the capricious British climate is its lack of proper drama. November sidles in, damp and chilly, bringing with it a vague sense of oppression: rain falls; storm drains become blocked; the wrong sort of leaves fall on the line; and the female half of the population changes distractedly into its winter plumage, which comes in fungal shades of dun and grey to match the melancholy landscape.

Of course, these tones of bare bark and leaf mould have their charm — they are flattered by the winter light, which can lend to bolder colours an unkind, brash reflection. And they are comforting to wear, lending the cosy illusion that one is in a state of semi-hibernation. But there are some things of which they are incapable. However beautifully cut your grey flannel pants, however soft your stone cashmere tunic, these garments are never going to give you a sense of drama or exhilaration.

Yet for all its irritating temperance (I never pass the sluggish Thames at Greenwich without wondering what it would have looked like when the last King Charles was on the throne and there were frost fairs and oxen roasting on the frozen midstream), the chilly dark of midwinter lends itself as much to glamour as the months of heat and light. Not the slightly raffish chic of *opéra* either, but something more ambiguous — the allure of the cold-blooded princess in A.S. Byatt's new volume of short stories, *Elementals*, who sickens and grows languorous in the warmth, but draws from the chill a sharp beauty that sparkles more brilliantly with every degree of frost.

The natural palette for a snow princess is white — lots of it, not just miserable little touches. Of course, the instant you begin to flirt with the idea that you might swathe yourself in some precious fabric whose pristine pallor invites all sorts of violations — small children with felt-tips and Jackson Pollock tendencies, drunken waiters with dribbling sauce boats, emphatic fellow guests with slopping glasses of red wine — your Inner Housewife will start a dreary monologue about how it's not very practical, really, and hadn't you better see if they've got it in a nice beige?

I would tell her to shut up. In fact, some years ago, I did tell her to shut up. I had found the perfect alpacas coat — soft, enveloping, in a kind of lichen-

ous no-colour — and I was just getting out my credit card when I spotted its more glamorous younger sister: the same coat, but in white, very faintly flushed with pink, like a snowfield with the setting sun on it. It was hopeless for the kind of life I lead, so I bought it. Since then it has been soaked to its pale pink satin lining in a New Year's Eve downpour in Lisbon, smudged with black oil by a surly Parisian taxi driver, stroked with loving little fingers covered in blackcurrant

CUTTING EDGE
JANE SHILLING

jam — and each time it has returned from the dry-cleaners with its sweet-natured glamour undiminished. It is a workhorse, quite as durable as the dun jacket in which I go for muddy rides. And unlike the riding jacket, it gives me an icy lot of pleasure every time I put it on.

So, if the prospect of going about for the next four months dressed as Miss Mouse is just too depressing, you might try winter white. If I hadn't already found the perfect pale coat, I should be very tempted by MaxMara's beautiful creamy alpaca town coat, £515. Helmut Lang does a handsome funnel-collared white

wool jacket, £595, and Liberty stocks a cheerful white felt pea jacket by Jean-Charles de Castelbajac with silver buttons and red top-stitching, £369. Glamour queens would probably prefer the Maison de la Fausse Fourrure's white-gold, fake-fur coat, £325. Even nicer than fur is alpaca. Nicole Parhi has a huge, but miraculously light, sweater in fussy cream alpaca mix for £249. At Liberty, Saltwater's feather-weight cream alpaca jumper with a grey skeleton leaf on the front is reduced from £215 to £172.

The neutrality of white endows it with a vastly attractive versatility. Impossible to think of spending your life in pink, say, or lime green, but you could easily do it in white, whose range encompasses Yohji Yamamoto's dark ivory wool jerkin, £205, knitted on needles the size of hockey sticks, with a riotous lumpy trim at the armhole, neck and front edge, and Workers for Freedom's shadow-embroidered silk chiffon dresses, fragile and pale as dandelion clocks, £219.

These are the extremes. Somewhere in the middle of the spectrum is Episode's slithery heavy cream crepe de Chine wide-leg pants, £139 (perfect with Jean Muir's white wool tunic from Jaeger, £200), and, for snow queens without the chip of ice in the heart, a sweetly simple boat-necked wool crepe shift, £139, as wholesome and appetising as vanilla ice-cream.

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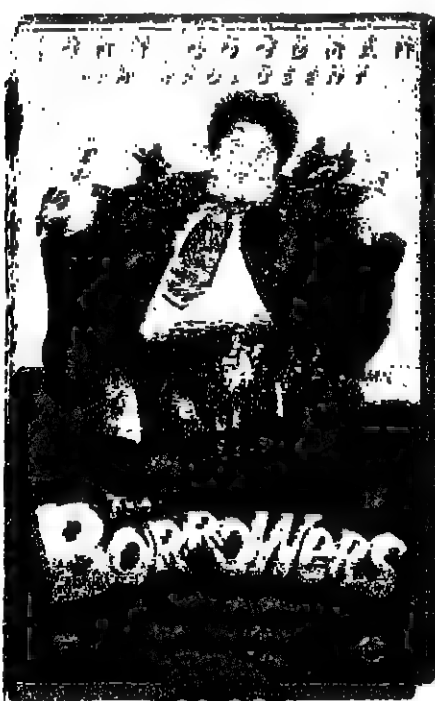
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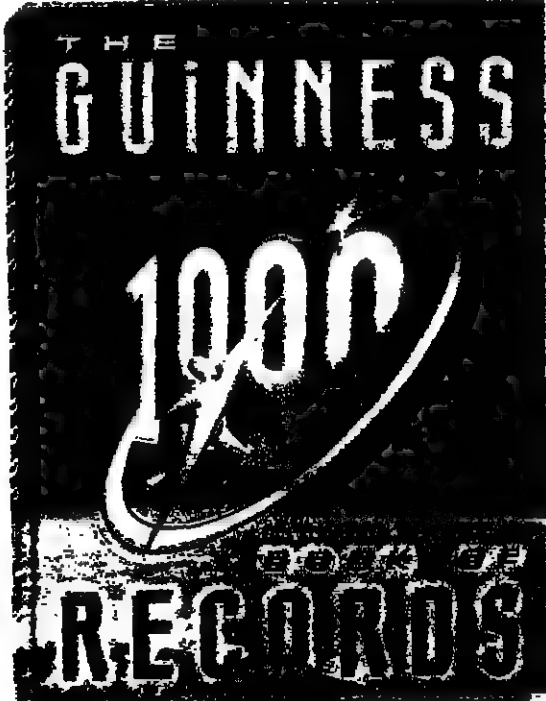
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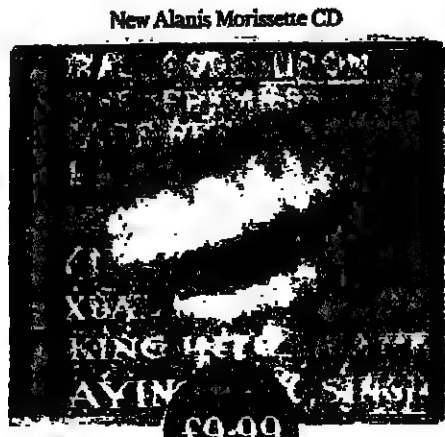
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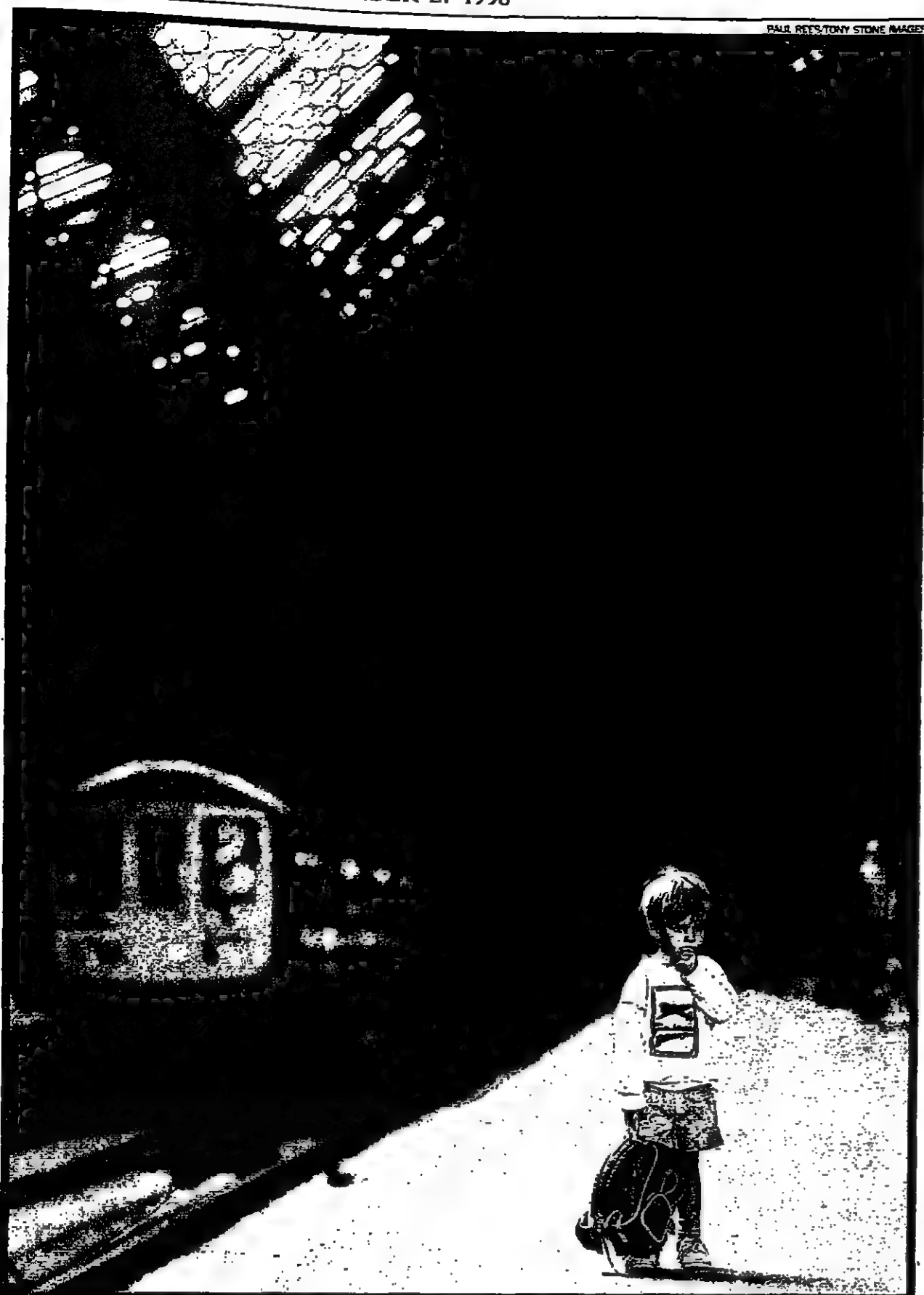
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Out in the cold: "A lot of stories of abandonment are about hoping the child will be given a better life"

Not just a Grimm fairytale: the abandoned child

What is it that drives a mother to abandon her children? Earlier this week Tracy Nolan hit the news. On holiday in Istanbul, she fell in love with a Jordanian boutique owner. Her husband obligingly flew home — but had to leave their three children behind. Nolan dealt with the problem by putting her offspring in a taxi to take them to the British Embassy.

Throughout history there have been cases of mothers abandoning their children and this seemingly unnatural act has been reworked in numerous myths and fairytales. Romulus and Remus were raised by a she-wolf after being abandoned beside the Tiber. Snow White is left in the forest on the orders of her step-mother. *Hansel and Gretel* also begins with the children abandoned by their parents.

In the Grimm fairytales, the act of abandonment is seen as at best morally ambivalent (the servant chooses to abandon rather than to kill Snow White but does not actively save her), at worst cruel. But Marina Warner, the author of *From the Blonde to the Beast* and *No Go The Boggymen*, both studies of fairytales and mythology, points out that historically, abandoning children was not always an act of malice. "Famine, not being able to cope with rearing young children, was definitely something people told stories about."

"A lot of stories of abandonment are about hoping the child will be given a better life. In the first version of *Hansel and Gretel*, both parents agree that they can't cope, they are all starving, and they must leave the children in the woods. The Grimms found this horrendous, so they made the mother into a stepmother." So the act of abandonment

The forces that drive a mother to abandon her children, reworked in numerous myths and fairytales, are as strong as ever, says Grace Bradberry

came to be seen as one of wickedness rather than despair. Yet the motive for most abandonments is judged by experts to be severe depression.

There are exceptions. The philosopher Rousseau, who did much to create the modern notion of childhood, abandoned his children on the steps of the foundling home. There is no evidence that he did so because of depression.

In the Middle Ages, abandoning one's children in order to give them a better life received official religious sanction as an act of oblation: parents would hand over very young children as gifts to monasteries and convents. The practice is addressed in the historian John Boswell's book *The Kindness of Strangers*.

Such an idea would be shocking today, and indeed,

many fairytales are rewritten in modern editions so that rather than being abandoned, children wander off of their own volition. There is a sense that whatever happens inside the home, what happens outside may well be worse — a fictionalising of our current fear of the badly intentioned stranger.

This is something that the artist Gigi Sudbury has picked up on in her exhibition of her own illustrated fairytales at Leighton House in London. "Rereading the Grimms' fairytales, the same themes are addressed again and again," she says. "They're about stability and staying with what you have."

We now see abandonment, far from offering children a better life, as robbing them of any stability, leaving them rootless and without identity.

It is a more absolute state than being adopted, because an adopted child has the right to know the natural parents' names. Abandoned children who are not identified do not have even that option. They do not know where, when or to whom they were born and have spoken of the shock of seeing their birth certificates with the word "unknown" written in several boxes.

Mothers forced through destitution to abandon their children were often aware of this. Earlier this year there was a heart-rending exhibition of keepsakes bequeathed by mothers who had left their babies at the gates of a foundling hospital 200 years ago. A hazelnut, a ragged square of embroidered cloth and a playing card were among the pathetic offerings left by women who dreamt that these would help them one day to identify and reclaim the babies.

One tends to assume that social security, the possibility of abortion, the support structure of healthcare and social workers, would have made such instances a thing of the past. Yet earlier this year official figures showed that the number of abandoned babies had tripled over the past ten years. The fairytales still have resonance.

The motive is judged by experts to be severe depression

Park now for next Christmas

The reason why getting a driving licence is such an emotional staging post for any young person is that when you sit behind a steering wheel and set off down the road for the first time you learn several important things about the wider world that teachers never bothered to tell you at school, such as the fact that there are many adults out there who are even more stupid than you.

The other thing you realise is that most drivers in London aren't going anywhere. They're cruising around trying to find a place to park so that they can finally get out and do their Christmas shopping. I'm referring, of course, to last year's Christmas shopping. They almost found a spot near Regent Street in August, but then they thought they might as well keep driving around in the hope of securing an early parking spot for this year's Christmas shopping.

Occasionally, these drivers, impelled by some primeval survival instinct, will execute their emergency two-step car-parking procedure, which involves:

Step 1. Tailing anyone who is walking down the street jangling a set of car keys in their hand (on the assumption that they will shortly be freeing up a parking space).

Step 2. Being philosophical when they find out that this person is not returning to a parked car (ie. having the sense to appreciate that with so much genuine suffering in the world — including wars and murder — it won't make any measurable difference to the global tally of senseless

violence if they were to step out of their car and kill this person anyway).

One explanation of why bumper cars remain popular even when children grow into adults is that they are the only place where you can drive for hours without having to find a parking space yourself.

There would be a lucrative future for any company that provided large tattooed men to hop onto your bonnet whenever you wanted to stop, and to steer you through congested traffic to a suitable parking spot the way those attendants do at the end of dodgem rides.

The other reason why bumper cars remain so popular with adults is that they allow you to bring basic faults in other people's driving skills to their attention in a way that you can rarely do on the open road without losing your no-claims bonus or getting arrested for assault. (You've probably noticed how frequently, when at the wheel, you find yourself shrieking,



"Jeez, that driver is a complete idiot", even though you're not a professional taxi driver. It's as if in your non-driving hours you only ever meet people with doctorates — You: "I would like a one-day travel card, please." Ticket seller: "Certainly, Sir, although why not start walking instead? As long as you took your first step before the train left this station, Zeno's paradox of the tortoise and Achilles shows that you would reach your destination before the train did.")

Americans have been smart enough to find their own solution to this age-old problem: yesterday they all drove

home to celebrate Thanksgiving, established by the Pilgrim Fathers to give thanks for escaping Europe to settle in a country where every man and woman — regardless of race or religion — was able to find a parking space as late as the fourth Thursday of November, the day which traditionally launches the final 20 shopping days before Christmas. One

solution to Europe's parking headache would be to sell cars the way they sell mobile phones. Just as mobile phones come in leather pouches, cars would be sold with their own parking space and user tariffs which determined how many minutes a day you could park in that space, with special rates when using your space to park near family and friends.

Or else there should be some sense of achievement associated with finding a parking space by making it an eligible Olympic sport. Watching drivers compete against the clock to locate the one vacant spot in a 20-storey car park would not only beat curling for excitement, but it would give France a rare chance to win a gold medal — Parisians having long mastered the skill of parking a car in a very tight space while simultaneously breaking the speed limit.

It has become so tough to park a car in London that the surest way to boost the value of your house would not be to install a new kitchen or to create a roof terrace, but to build a car ramp that led straight into the spare bedroom, thereby guaranteeing a parking space within a mile of your front door. If this strikes you as too drastic, there is still a way to ensure that your car is parked legally, thereby offering no reason for commission-hungry traffic wardens to be distracted from ogling the Denver Boot centrefold in *Car Clamper's Monthly*: this is by buying a car that is already parked in a legal spot. Then just travel everywhere by taxi.

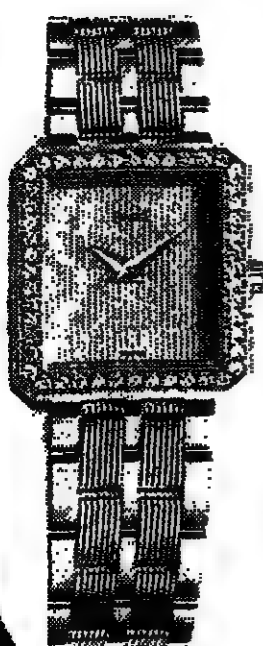
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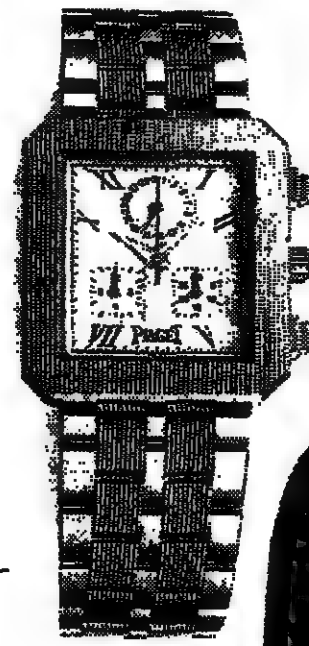
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The shame of London's schools

Mary Ann Sieghart on the rise of a new educational apartheid

The Labour MP was depressed and angry. "I sometimes wonder whether I shouldn't just chuck this job in," he said. He is not disillusioned with new Labour and Tony Blair — far from it. He just wants his children to have a proper education.

Having sent them to an excellent state primary school, he is now going through the traumas of finding a place for his oldest child at a decent secondary. At one selective state school, the parents were state each other up like passengers on the *Titanic*, knowing their children's lives were at stake but that only a few would win a coveted place. One of the comprehensives he was considering was more oversubscribed than Eton. But, because he is a Labour MP, he cannot do what his friends have reluctantly done, and go private.

Standards at state secondary schools in London are shockingly, disgracefully bad. This world-class capital city has third-class education. Most of the MP's left-wing friends have finally given up, and gone private, unhappy with themselves and furious with successive governments that have failed their children so dismally.

Between us, we reeled off a list of right-on London professionals who had sacrificed their ideology for their children's future. Professor Ben Pirnott, Channel 4 News's Jon Snow, the New Statesman's Francis Beckett, and many more: barristers, bankers, media folk, political advisers. Others had bought expensive houses near to one of the few remaining successful state secondaries:

Today, anyone who can afford it is going private

capitalising their school fees rather than paying for them out of an income stream. And what of the Londoners who do not have that choice? Their children are condemned to low standards, low expectations, poor discipline and poor results.

Over kitchen tables around the capital, the talk always seems to revert to "education, education, education". Among my contemporaries, it replaced "house prices, house prices, house prices" a long time ago. But it is a lot more depressing. I was lucky enough to find a very good state primary for our two children; but in just three years' time we shall be facing the same dilemma as my Labour friend. At least, unlike him, we have the choice of going private, albeit with crippling financial consequences. But I don't want my children braying. I don't want them to be comparing skiing holidays and BMW models with their classmates. I want for them a broad social mix. Most of all, I have paid my taxes, and I don't see why I should not get a decent standard of education in return.

Talk to education ministers, though, and they dismiss it as "just a London problem". Just a London problem? First, it is also a Birmingham problem, a Manchester problem, and a

Liverpool problem. But anyway, London contains one seventh of England's population and, because of the country's centralisation, a much higher proportion of its wealth-creators, jurists, policymakers, financiers and opinion-formers. The state of its schools ought to matter.

It also has many of the richest and the poorest people in the land living side by side. Yet they are not educated side by side. Instead, almost anyone who can afford it (and that includes desperately thrifty Asians and blacks) opts out. Instead of the ideal of the comprehensive, where the son of the street sweeper sits next to the daughter of the duke, there is educational apartheid.

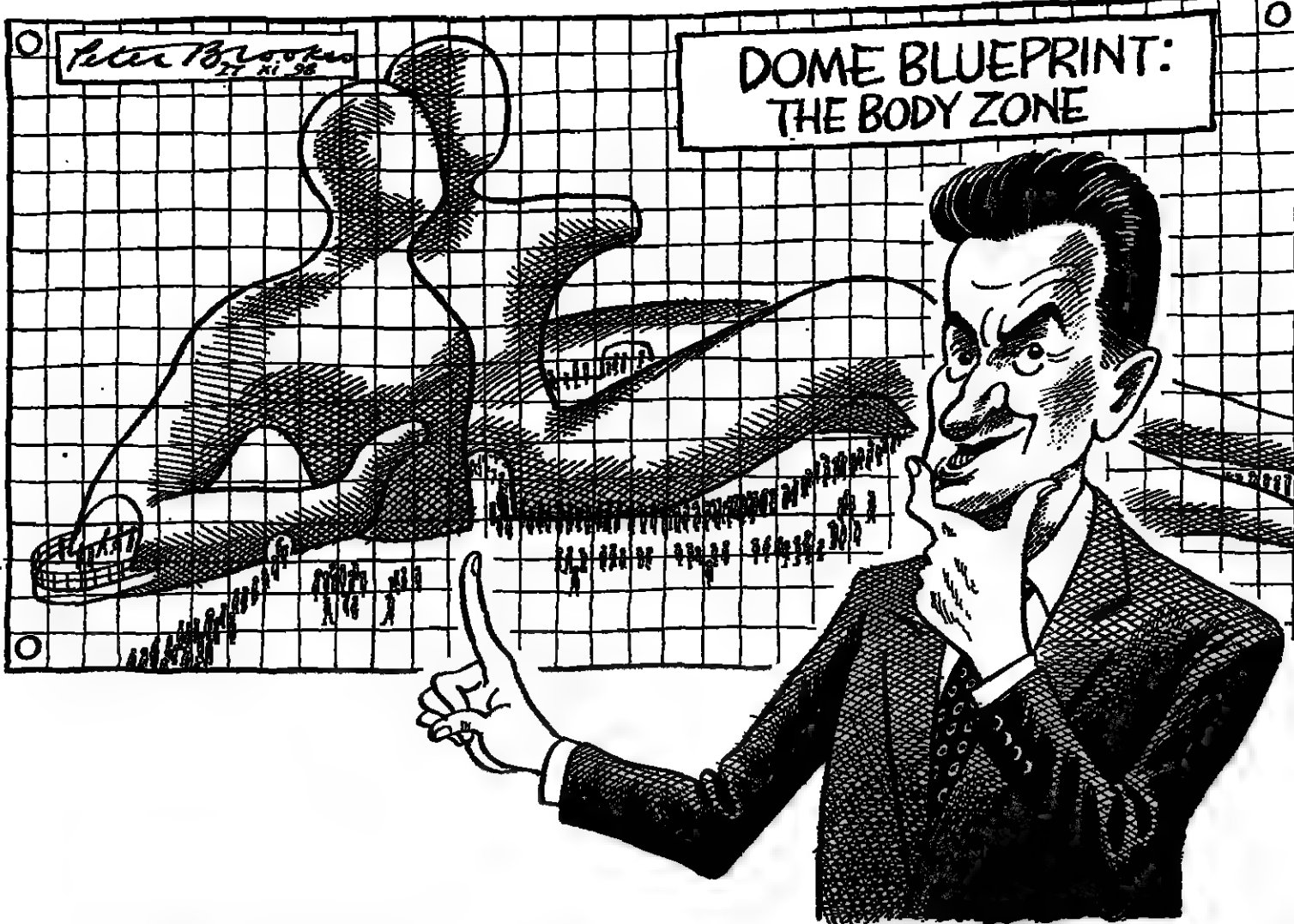
This is the apartheid that we ought to worry about, not the "apartheid" of selection. For it was the grammar and direct grant schools that did ensure that children of all classes were educated together. Even now, the very few selective schools in Outer London attract a wonderfully broad social spread, with lots of ethnic minority parents who understand the importance of excellence in education for their children's life chances.

Indeed, it was Bernie Grant, the black MP for Tottenham and firebrand of the Left, who, to the astonishment of his colleagues, stood up for Harriet Harman at the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting when she was being excoriated for sending her son to a selective state school. He fumed against the comprehensives that had given his children such a terrible education. The *bien-pensant* white liberals were silenced.

Another black MP, Paul Boateng, has managed to get away with educating some of his children privately. So, inevitably, has Geoffrey Robinson. But most Labour politicians get into trouble even for patronising grant-maintained state schools which do not select by ability.

And now the few remaining grammar schools, not just in London but around the country, are being threatened with parental ballots. For a Government supposedly committed to excellence, this is outrageous. Children, of whatever ability, learn best when taught alongside others of similar ability. Private schools have always understood the point of diversity, of "horses for courses". So does the German system, which has infinitely better state schools than ours. And why are French women so well dressed? Because they can afford to be — they don't pay school fees.

If inner London had five or ten "beacon" schools, aimed at the brightest children in the capital, thousands of parents would desert the private sector and come back to state schools. And thousands of clever working-class children would have a chance to fulfil their potential. An end to class divides; opportunity regardless of wealth. What could be more new Labour than that?



"IT'S VERY THIRD WAY- NEITHER ONE THING NOR THE OTHER!"

A most fitting conclusion

The transformation of a venerable tailors into a bookshop is yet another example our literary renaissance

Simpson's Piccadilly is to close. The citadel of gentlemen's tailoring is becoming a Jermyn Street boutique. I can hardly believe it. During the school holidays, inspired by *The History of Mr Polly* and £6 a week, I sold tweed jackets at Simpson's at 10 per cent off.

Our department was a model for *Are You Being Served?* Its head was a Mr Creed, who never sat down lest he damage his trouser creases and would not let us do so either. Simpson's was a place of timeless composure. It clothed the Empire. Yet Simpson's is to close. Is the Queen still on the throne?

That is not the half of it. Simpson's entire building is to become a bookshop. It is to be the largest bookshop in the world, a "department bookstore" in Piccadilly, flagship of the new Waterstone's empire. There will be books galore. There will be reading areas, coffee lounges, poetry corners, Internet access points. The preserve of camel hair, worsted and cavalry twill is to be seized by Tennyson and Yeats, Shakespeare and O'Neill, Tolstoy and Trollope. Where the Wooster brogues once sought a new pair of spats or a Christmas gift for Jeeves, will now thunder the trainers of the reading classes. The prospect is awful. This dumbing-up of London has gone too far.

Eight minutes' walk from Simpson's is Maggs Bros. Maggs is in a different class. It occupies what must be the oldest completely unaltered house in London, at 50 Berkeley Square. The firm, under Ernest and Uriah Maggs, was founded in 1853 and moved from Conduit Street to Berkeley Square in the 1930s. It has been trading there ever since. The house is like the Bodleian or the London Library, where every pore coaxes book, but in Maggs's case the books are old. It is the apothecary of the second-hand bookshop.

Maggs has books in the front room and the back room. There are books on the stairs and books in the attic. There are books in glass cases, in sideboards and cupboards. Open any door and out will spill a dusty volume with a dusty scholar ensnared in its pages. Staff are fluent in Spanish, Latin, Hebrew, whatever. On my last visit, an American student was translating some Italian letters from Pound. Maggs hires its staff for their scholarship not their salesmanship. Nothing at Maggs can equal its

"downstairs". The old Georgian servants' quarters survive intact: pantries, butteries, wine cellars, a game larder with hooks still in place. A passage under the garden leads to the mews, with carriage yard and stables. Here are the cobbles and run-offs, the mangers and haylofts, the tiny bedrooms for the ostlers and grooms, still numbered. And every inch is books. Books are stacked, crammed, jumbled and squeezed, even on top of the ancient privies.

Shelves in the stables are so close together that only the thinnest staff can possibly use them. The books are old, some on the point of disintegration, as if book, wall, lath and plaster were born of the same chemistry and will soon sink happily together into the London clay. I know of no London house, not even a Tudor or medieval relic, that retains so complete an aura of antiquity as Maggs. It must never be touched.

Maggs is not Waterstone's. Maggs and its genteel rivals, Quaritch, the Sotheby's and Christie's of the antiquarian book world. They are summoned across the world when a Gutenberg codex from a castle vault or a Exeter drops from an Assisi altar. Their books are more than Milton's "vials of pure intellect". They are things of beauty in their own right, furnishing the eye as well as the mind. As long as Maggs is in Berkeley Square, the nightingale will not want for lyrics.

But back to Waterstone's. When I worked at Simpson's, proper bookshops were regarded as dead. There was Foyle's, Hatchard's, Bumpus, and Truslove and Hanson. Apart from Blackwell's in Oxford and Heffer's in Cambridge there were only some 20 bookshops carrying a full range of titles in England. Television and WH Smith had done for them all. Such, we were told, was the way of the world. Richard Hoggart's cultural crisis had no more

obvious talisman than bookshop closure.

How strange that now, amid a similar climate of cultural gloom, the bookshop should be surging back to life. There are ten times more full-range bookshops than there were two decades ago. There is a bookshop on every town high street. The collapse of resale price maintenance — an event predicted to destroy traditional bookselling — has done no such thing. There are bookshops

in museums, stations and supermarkets. There is even a bookshop in Trafalgar Square. The American firm of Borders is about to open a chain of its celebrated bookshop-café, where customers can drink, read and only per-

haps buy books. This is a true university of the street, the library privatised yet communalised.

Those who pose as custodians of culture outdo even the farmers in their whingeing. Last week the Oxford University Press announced that it was closing down its modern poetry list as an economy move. This was seized by the arts lobby as another sign of degeneration, echoing that in live theatre, the quality press, academic standards and the Turner Prize. A stanza of poets wrote to *The Times* demanding state subsidy and government action. Yet poetry is doing fine. This week appears that regular bestseller, *Poems on the Underground*, a collection of verses old and new printed in Tube carriages. This happy innovation is now imitated in city trains round the world, in New York, Paris, Dublin, Stuttgart, Barcelona, Athens, Shanghai, Moscow and Stockholm.

Britain's leading poetry publisher, Faber, makes a handsome profit on its poetry list. Ask a bookshop what sells well at Christmas and poetry anthologies come hard on the heels of manuals and biographies. Any home that calls itself civilised will have poetry on its shelf. Oxford may have

Simon Jenkins

Philip Howard



If only England could play with more brains...

British sportsmen are the terrors of the world for their success, skill and modesty. Before this heavy sporting weekend they are lucky to be supported by the back-up of a reserve squad of dead intellectuals who were nearly as good at their sports as they are.

Ayer, A.J.: This aggressive all-rounder would stiffen our middle-order batting at Perth. Ayer is famous for his cavalier treatment of short-pitched bowling, pulling it for six as unorthodox and therefore literally as senseless as a no-ball. Like Hobbs (Jack, not Levithan), he divides all bowling into two classes: those which threaten danger to the wicket (analytical), and those which threaten danger to the person (synthetic). He treats both with unfalsifiable technique. Ayer would also be useful at sledging the Australians with his ice-cold invective.

Caesar, J (captain): A controversial selection, not least because of doubts about Caesar's qualifications on the strength of two short overseas tours here in 55 and 54BC. But he talked himself into the job with the help of his fan club, the Legionaries. He would bring speed and generalship to England's midfield. Authoritative at dealing with the manager's soothsayer. He was famous for his speed about the field. His autobiography, though self-serving, has introduced millions of children to the pleasures of footy. Rumoured to take injury during March.

Wittgenstein, Ludwig: He qualifies for England because of his long years of service with Cambridge Disunited. An all-rounder at all sports. Indeed, he treated life and language as kinds of games, and, unlike the logical positivists, allows for the possibility of the fly-half passing the ball out. With him playing language games at the base of the scrum, England can surely beat Australia at Twickenham. If an England prop could speak, he would not understand himself.

Van der Post, Laurens: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski are both on court at Haverford today. But Laurens, known by fans as "van der Pump", was the British number 1 with the white woolly balls. A master at disguising the direction, pace and content of his service.

Johnson, Samuel: At Newbury for the Hennessy Gold Cup tomorrow, he would be a worthy sit-in jock for Venetia Williams's Teeton Mill. Sam's favourite horse was trotting (or harness-racing), in a postchaise, with a pretty woman. He may be a bit overweight, but that should cause no problems with this hot favourite. A fine judge of horseflesh as well as female flesh: "A fly, Sir, may sting a hunter-chaser and make him wince; but one is but an insect, and the other is a horse still."

Shakespeare, W: Another all-round sportsman who can play anywhere on any field. He too should be riding at Newbury. In the same play he shows championship form with tennis-balls, golf ("I dare not chip; but I will wink and hold out mine iron"), and speed over the jumps: "When I bestride my horse, I soar, I am a hawk; he trots the air; the earth sings when he touches it."

Russell, B: Another controversial selection. He does not command a great deal of respect from the rest of the team, but his knowledge of the opposition is unparalleled. He reduces football strategy to a mathematical precision: "Every managerial problem, when it is subjected to the necessary analysis and justification, is found either to be not really about football at all, or else to be, in the sense in which we are using the word, logical."

With such substitutes, British teams could perform with even more confidence and flair tomorrow. The great dead thinkers are less well paid than our modern sportsmen. They are almost as argumentative, but more articulate. They are not strictly team-players, being almost as self-centred as our millionaire sportsmen. But they make a team that can challenge the world. And they have a bottom of good sense (especially Dr Johnson) which is badly needed in the scrums and the saddles of English sport of pigs managed by donkeys.

JASPER GERARD

Spooked out

DONS at Peterhouse, Cambridge, are so worried by the ghost reputedly haunting its cloisters that they have appointed a new Dean to exorcise him. Ben Quash, who takes up the position next April, is to be asked to perform the ceremony in the college's hall and its adjoining Senior Combination Room, where the old boy has been sighted. Dr Graham Ward, the departing Dean, summoned a diocesan exorcist earlier in the year but failed to quell the nocturnal knockings. "We shall certainly be asking the new Dean to exorcise the ghost," a don at Peterhouse tells me. The ceremony is to be "among his first duties".

The ghost, thought by some to be Francis Dawes, a Peterhouse bursar who hanged himself with a bell-rope in 1789 after irregularities over the election of a Master, has been worrying members of staff for several years. The Senior Bursar, Dr Andrew Morrison, and two of the college butlers claim separately to have seen it glide slowly across the oak-panelled 13th-century Combination Room before vanishing.

A year ago, it has emerged, an

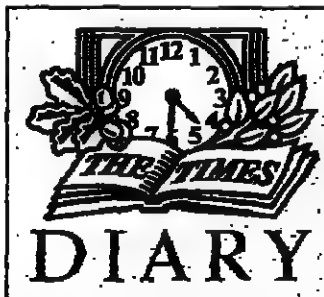
alleged sighting reduced the head butler to a quivering wreck during Formal Hall. Cynics suggest this was a deliberate ploy to end a lengthy after-dinner speech that showed little sign of stopping.

TENDING to Mohamed Ali Fayed at a Baltimore hospital has been one of the world's leading cloning experts. I just thought his friends such as Peter Mandelson would be happy to hear this news.

Charlie's angles

CHARLIE WHELAN has knobbed the peer who was to rule on his shadowy methods in the House of Lords. The Chancellor's garrulous press enforcer faces a kangaroo court hearing in the Lords which will uncover the murky truth behind his Red Lion briefings. Lord Peston, a Labour peer, has been asked to chair and decide whether Whelan should be extradited from the Treasury.

Fate, and mischievous seating at the *Spectator* lunch, brought Whelan next to his nemesis. The convivial lunch concluded, Whelan



emerged victorious: "We had a nice chat and Peston agrees there is no case to answer. This investigation isn't going to happen." We'll see.

HER conversion to Judaism has brought material as well as amatorial fruits for Santa Sebag Montefiore. Chanyah is the first Jewish celebration to be encountered by the newly-wed Santa and she can hardly wait. "The great thing," Santa tells me, "is that it lasts eight days, on each of which you get presents." Soon she will be able to write a learned work: *Theology for an It Girl, perhaps*.

Don't tell Cliff

COVER your ears, Sir Cliff. Una Stubbs, the charming actress who nearly lured the housewives' favourite from a life of celibacy, has

given birth to a ghetto-style wannabe hip-hop star. Joe Stubbs (the one in the middle), the 25-year-old progeny of the slick-heeled actress, is enjoying his first hit single with a "rap posse" entitled *Freestylers*. His lively tunes have charmed youngsters by employing a street argot commonly associated with natives of New York's Bronx district. "Joe doesn't swear at home," says Una. "He has never been a very aggressive boy."

WILLIAM HAGUE has swallowed his pride and is making secret overtures to Paddy Ashdown. Although dismissive of Tony Blair's attempts to cosy up to the Liberal Democrats, Hague has sent a Shadow Cabinet emissary to

explore areas of mutual interest with Paddy's people. Gary Streeter, the Shadow International Development spokesman, held a secret meeting with Nick Harvey, Ashdown's head of campaigns, to discuss tactics over the single currency. "Gary wanted to know whether Lib Dem Eurosceptics would be allowed to join with the Tories in campaigning against the single currency in a referendum campaign. Nick is very sympathetic," says a matchmaker. Denis MacShane, Labour's Euro tactician, is incredulous: "If the Tories need to travel Paddy's mob for anti-European support, they really are in trouble."

Going short

RABBI SHIMULEY BOTEACH'S take on sex is a turn-off. The author of *Kosher Sex* has acknowledged that controversy about his bestselling sex manual has reduced donations to L'Chaim Society, the charity he runs.

The Orthodox rabbi, taking part in the final of *The Times*'s "Preacher of the Year" competition, admits his smut has cost at least £100,000 in donations. Two governors have also thrown in their skull caps in disgust. Because of the loss, the society has cut its budget by one



third and downgraded its London HQ. Boteach, who sold extracts of his book to Playboy, says: "Money is extremely tight." Perhaps he should pen *Further Joys of Kosher Sex* to raise some funds.

OPENING lines, courtesy of the oily Nigel Havers. Caprice (above) was modelling lingerie and jewellery for an auction. Havers studied her breasts and said: "Caprice. There's one thing everyone wants to know. Are they real?" "You mean the jewellery don't you?" Caprice replied. More cleverly.



A DEBT UNPAID

Japan's refusal to offer China a written apology is inexcusable

President Jiang Zemin's visit to Japan is the first by a Chinese head of state since the Second World War. His ceremonial gift to Emperor Akihito of a pair of crested ibises, all but extinct in Japan, elegantly symbolised China's intention to make this historic, meticulously prepared, event a new beginning in the difficult relationship between Asia's two pre-eminent powers. New beginnings are a cliché of diplomacy; but in this case, the horrors of war invest it with real meaning. China's overture has been ill-rewarded by Japan's Government, which has gratuitously angered and offended all Chinese by its stubborn and foolish refusal to include in the written joint communiqué the simple word, sorry.

All that Japan summoned the courage and decency to offer was an oral reminder by its Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, that in 1995 the then Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, offered a "heartfelt apology" to all Asians on the 50th anniversary of Japan's defeat. Since it is well known that Mr Murayama was attacked at the time for saying even that much, Japan would do better not to keep referring back, as it does to all aggrieved nations, to that statement.

As for the written document to be signed by both Governments, Japan insisted that it could contain no word stronger than "deep regret". China, understandably, therefore refused to sign it. Tokyo claims that it has already apologised and cannot forever continue to rake over old evils. But if this is true — and China maintains that Japan's veiled language has never been explicit — why the taboo on committing the apology unequivocally to paper?

The inescapable impression created is that Japan is incapable of outright apology to China, because the Japanese still feel no real guilt about atrocities committed against the Chinese by its Imperial Army. Since face is as important in Japan as it is in China, Tokyo cannot be unaware of the

domestic embarrassment this causes to President Jiang, who has shown some political courage in attempting to put the relationship on a constructive new footing. Yet Japanese officials have compounded the Government's error by saying that Japan does not owe China the same degree of contrition as it does to South Korea, where Mr Obuchi last month signed a written statement expressing Japan's "deep remorse" and "heartfelt apology" for the past. That, they say, is because Japan actually colonised the Korean peninsula.

But this is mere sophistry. Japan may not formally have colonised China, but it indubitably and illegally occupied it from 1931, when it invaded Manchuria, to 1945. China paid with the lives of up to 20 million citizens. By no means all were killed in fighting. Many died in concentration camps or forced labour gangs; some were the victims of medical experiments as appalling as any conducted by the Nazis. And the Nanjing Massacre of 1937 ranks with the most terrible war crimes in history. What Japan, when it is spoken of at all, still refers to as an "incident", cannot be ascribed to military indiscipline. Mass killings, looting and the rape, including mass rape, of 20,000 girls and women, continued for six weeks after Japan's armies poured through the eastern gate. A third of Nanjing was put to the torch. The evidence points to a deliberate decision to terrorise China into submission.

Mr Jiang's impeccable response to Japan's blunder has been to promise to "develop friendly relations" with the Japanese people, who were also victims of the militarist wartime leadership. But, he pointedly remarked, it is up to the Japanese Government to "contain the denial and distortion of history". It is advice that Tokyo should take — and not just because these were statesmanlike words but because they speak the truth.

GENTLEMEN AND PLAYERS

The Downing Street staff will and should expand

Some cogs in the machinery of government are bigger than others. The forthcoming departure of John Holmes as Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister will leave an especially large hole at the centre of Downing Street. Mr Holmes's duties included foreign policy, Northern Ireland, international crises such as those concerning Iraq and Kosovo, as well as No 10's relations with Buckingham Palace and the Opposition. It is hardly surprising that Tony Blair is finding him a hard man to replace and has considered splitting his post between two civil servants.

The Prime Minister has faced considerable criticism for expanding the size of his personal office during his period in power. The charge of "presidentialism" has been raised against him much as it was for Margaret Thatcher. If the departure of Mr Holmes were to result in even the slightest further advance in the numbers around Mr Blair then such gibes will be repeated. Yet the sheer range of activities that the Principal Private Secretary is expected to cover, and the hours that are involved in the enterprise, would not suggest that Downing Street is awash with officials.

The character of government, not partisan or personal conspiracy, has placed an extraordinary strain on the modern Prime Minister's office. In a touching reminder of the enduring power of Parkinson's Law, the advent of modern technology — from e-mail to the Internet — has served only to enhance an already intensive workload. The European Union now produces paperwork, often of a controversial nature, that would have been unimaginable a decade ago. The needs of the media mean that civil servants are expected to provide information at ever-increasing speed.

All these demands involve questions of political sensitivity. For all the oft-made accusations to the contrary, Whitehall norms demand that many of these matters are dealt with only by a limited number of appointees within Downing Street. A small number of seconded civil servants, such as Mr Holmes, operate at the centre of this complex. Even after Mr Blair's efforts to enhance his entourage, he is surrounded by far fewer figures than most of his European or American counterparts.

The office is also uniquely personal. It relies on a close and informal relationship between the Prime Minister and those around him. It is also shaped by the personality and philosophy of the politician who serves as Prime Minister. Mrs Thatcher and now Mr Blair have seen themselves as policy initiators. Others such as John Major, in the early part of his tenure, chose something closer to a co-ordinating role. The numbers and nature of those at the centre is fluid. It ebbs and flows with the political position of the Prime Minister of the moment.

Mr Blair remains in far more danger of possessing too few, not too many, institutional resources. The business of his Government rests on the efforts of a small number of people. It would not be in Mr Blair's interest to acquire a full-scale Prime Minister's Department. The advantages in manpower would be outweighed by the extra unwanted problems of administrative management. He is, however, entitled to seek further expansion of his staff. The Conservatives may find it convenient to chase modest political advantage from this development: a future Tory Prime Minister is unlikely to decide to reverse the direction that Mr Blair has taken.

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Help The Times to fill the empty library shelves

Oliver Goldsmith thought the pleasure of reading an excellent book was like gaining "a new friend". Sadly, some children never make such friends. Traditionalists blame this on the irresistible distractions of television and computer games, whose fast-moving addictive images leave little to the imagination and require scant effort to understand. In today's school playgrounds, where to be "cool" a child must have the latest, newest gimmick, it is a struggle to convince pupils that reading a book can provide as much entertainment as watching a cartoon.

Persuasive though this argument may sound, it ignores a salient fact. For even if children want to read, many schools have too few books to lend them. Every pupil in secondary education needs an average of 15 secondary education books even to cover the national curriculum properly. Yet, according to the Library Association, the national average of books per pupil is only nine. Sharing books between children is now commonplace.

The Free Books for Schools scheme, to be launched next year by News International, aims to help schools to replenish their libraries with millions of books from an extensive list, including novels, atlases, picture books, audio and braille titles. From Shakespeare to Sherlock Holmes, C.S. Lewis to Aldous Huxley, children will have a chance to heed Henry Thoreau's advice:

"Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all."

No government or local authority will ever be able to satisfy every school's demand for new tomes. Every academic year boasts at least one Molesworth who manages to blot, lose or partially destroy his or her books. Budgets are increasingly stretched as head teachers try to equip their schools with computers. Although children need to be trained for the rigours of the high-tech workplace, books are still the most effective laptop educational aid any pupil can have. In the coming months *The Times* will be asking its readers to take their part in a campaign in which, at no extra cost, they can put more books into more schools.

A book does not need to be plugged into a mains socket, has no keyboard to master or mouse to control. Pop it into a pocket or dump it in a rucksack, drop it off a desk or throw it across a classroom, a book provides a durable and accessible way of teaching a child how to read. And if a child cannot read, a computer is reduced to a redundant piece of plastic.

Books remain the best way of passing knowledge between the generations, sparking children's creativity, kindling their imagination and provoking curiosity. Encouraging pupils to read is an investment in the future and, more crucially, the most valuable gift children can be given.

Home Secretary's dilemma on Pinochet extradition

From the Vice-Chairman of the British/Chilean Chamber of Commerce

Sir, It is with astonishment and disbelief that I have seen Great Britain embroiled in the arrest of General Pinochet at the request of a politically motivated Spanish judge. The military takeover of the Government of Chile in September 1973 was supported at the time by most of the citizens of Chile and by all the Nato countries. The situation at that time constituted a civil war.

I cannot see how unleashing a one-sided international campaign of "justice" can solve or redeem crimes committed at the height of the Cold War in a far away country a generation ago. That's a matter for the Chileans.

Britain became a great nation by being pragmatic in its relationships with its trading partners. The Government does not have a mandate to play Robin Hood to the world. Its function is to further British interests, not to subordinate them to third-party causes.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. HARCUMBE,
Vice-Chairman, British/Chilean Chamber of Commerce,
Avenida Suecia 155,
Providencia, Santiago,
November 25.

From Professor Guy S. Goodwin-Gill

Sir, The Home Secretary may wish to be spared the ultimate decision, and may regret the discretion left to him, whether to implement the extradition order.

Would this not be the moment to put the question to the House of Commons on a free vote, both to see the extent to which our elected representatives are sensitive to the issues of law and justice, and also to confirm, one

way or another, the measure of our national responsibility?

Yours etc,
GUY S. GOODWIN-GILL
(Professor of International Refugee Law),
Wolfson College,
Oxford OX2 6UD.
guy.goodwin-gill@wolfson.ox.ac.uk
November 26.

From Mr Anthony Quick

Sir, The conduct of our senior courts of law over the Pinochet case has been a picture of confusion: five senior judges have ruled that he has immunity, three that he has not.

If the judges do not know what the law is, this vacuum can only be filled by Parliament passing a statute. Otherwise we will be faced by the situation, common in the U.S., where the law depends on the personal predilections of members of the Supreme Court. In Britain it will be worse, as only five law lords are required for a decision, thus giving their selector great powers of manipulation.

There is an overwhelming case that on sensitive political issues like abortion, capital punishment and extradition the law should be made by Parliament and not by a chance collection of lawyers.

Yours,
ANTHONY QUICK,
Corbin, Scorton,
Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0HU.
November 26.

From Mr Sergio Lopez-Pugh

Sir, Pinochet led a government that was hard on its enemies, but it turned Chile into a country where you can be proud of being a citizen. All Chileans felt the burden, and we lived with it for 17 years. Then we had a vote on whether he would continue, and he

stepped down, according to the constitution we had voted and approved. We elected a democratic government. Then we elected another.

It is up to us, the Chileans, to determine how best to do justice for the awful things that happened here. We have our laws, and we were going through a process of reconciliation and strengthening of our democracy. The wound was healing. Now Judge Baltazar Garzon has managed to open it wide again.

Isn't life funny? The Spaniards had to live with Franco for 40 years. We had Pinochet for only 17, and they come to tell us how to conduct our business?

It is about time Europeans understood that for 170 years we have stopped being a colony.

Your etc,
SERGIO LOPEZ-PUGH,
Av. El Bosque Norte 0236/b02,
Santiago.
sergio@bigfoot.com
November 26.

From Mr John Lidstone

Sir, The question of General Pinochet's guilt or innocence for crimes committed whilst he was Chile's head of state has been so compromised by politicians prejudging his guilt and making their verdict public that he could not be arraigned before a British court.

Consequently a British judge would have to rule that it would be almost impossible to empanel an impartial jury to ensure that he had a fair trial.

Presumably the Spanish judiciary would face the same dilemma.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LIDSTONE,
East Lodge,
2 Orchard Fields,
Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8SN.
November 26.

From Mr Alan Brownjohn

Sir, Does the finance department of the OUP read the newspapers, or take in the broadcasting media? That such a decision should be made just after the successful celebration of a third National Poetry Day, and amidst the wide and lively interest in poets and poetry in relation to the laureateship, is almost impossible to credit.

OUP cites low sales figures for poetry. Other companies in the recent past have adopted a bottom-line tactic, when poetry is understandably less profitable than, say, cookery or gardening, of giving only minimal time, money and energy to promoting poets. Not surprisingly, sales decline, and encourage the accountants' view that poetry can't be worth promoting.

The success of creative writing classes and courses of the kind so generously furthered by our late and illustrious Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, suggests that there may be a greater number of people seeking and learning to write verse than at any previous time. This is also the Year of Reading. Should not all this suggest challenge and opportunity to publishers instead of cutbacks?

But perhaps this latest reverse, happening when it does, can be turned to advantage. The next Poet Laureate could be chosen, from among persons of suitable talent, on the basis that poets and poetry need someone to speak out for them and act as a defender of the art.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BROWNJOHN
(Chairman, The Poetry Society,
1982-88),
2 Belsize Park, NW3 4ET.
November 22.

Plum wrong

From Mr D. Lessman

Sir, Apologies are due from the P. G. Wodehouse Society for their denial that Bertie Wooster ever wore a monocle (Diary, November 24).

Not "in the text" eh? Then why did Bertie wear a monocle when his portrait was painted by Gladys Penderbury in *The Spot of Art*? The painting wound up as an advertising poster for Slingsby's Superb Soups in London and the Bouillon Supreme in Paris, so clearly full disclosure was made to the public back in the 1930s.

Yours etc,
D. LESSMAN,
67 Hamilton Terrace, NW8 9QX.
November 25.

From Mr Ben Stroude

Sir, Bertie Wooster probably wore a monocle for the duration of one (sadly, unwritten) short story before Jeeves very properly put a stop to it. But he was never, ever, known as Plum. This was the nickname of Wodehouse himself.

In 1881 I was christened Pelham Grenville — and not a thing to show for it except a small silver mug. I remember protesting at the time vigorously, but it did no good, the clergyman stuck to his point (*Performing Play*, 1933).

Yours sincerely,
BEN STROUDE,
14 China Farm Lane, West Kirby,
Wirral, Merseyside L48 9XW.
bestroude@aol.com
November 25.

Business letters, page 33

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Publishing poetry

From Mr Anselm Kuhn

Sir, Protests at the decision of the Oxford University Press to discontinue its poetry list (letters, November 25) are nothing more than another stanza in a long tradition.

Composers, painters, unpublished writers have ever advanced arguments, ranging from moral duty through to the suggestion that their works might indeed bring profit to the impresario, gallery owner or publisher with the courage to back them. And, in a few cases, history has proved them right.

Professor Fenton might rail (article, November 25), but the fact is that — typesetting and printing costs apart — a slim volume costs as much to produce as a fat one. The management and promotional overheads are identical.

It seems that we either accept the view that OUP management have got it all wrong, or it is simply that poets expect their work to be published on a subsidised basis. I doubt that a respected and successful publisher such as OUP will be easily moved by either argument.

At least they seem to have spared their poets the ultimate insult a publisher can offer — requiring the authors to pay the publishers.

What about the Internet?

Yours faithfully,
ANSELM T. KUHN
(Director),
Finishing Publications Ltd,
PO Box 70, Stevenage,
Hertfordshire SG1 4DF.
finpubs@compuserve.com
November 25.

New depths

From Mr Derys Franzini

Sir, Mrs Alexandra Campbell (letter, November 24) adds organisations that "get into bed with" each other to the list of irritatingly silly expressions.

If two (or more) organisations "get into bed together" following a "sexy" deal and have a relationship "to die for" (letter, November 19), might they then be "touching base" with each other?

Yours faithfully,
DERYS FRANZINI,
10 Courtfield Mews, SW5 0NH.
November 24.

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, All these ridiculous modern phrases should be put on the back burner.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Milnthorpe,
Winchester SO22 4NF.
November 24.

Seasonal drop?

From Mr John Rook

Sir, I understand that Marks & Spencer is at present experiencing difficulties (reports, November 19 and 26).

Could this be regarded as condign retribution for yet again starting the Christmas selling campaign in early November, and yet again obstinately refusing to insert an apostrophe in "Seasons Greetings"?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ROOK,
42 Peartree Road,
Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3DE.
November 26.

National Trust accountability

From Mrs Clare McLaren-Throckmorton

Sir, As the National Trust donor-tenant of this house on a 30-year lease, and also as an Exmoor-estate owner, I found myself obliged to propose a resolution on rural issues at the trust's recent AGM (letters, November 12 and 17).

I suggested that the trust should redefine its rural, commercial and management policies, concerning which I regard it as non-accountable, insufficiently transparent and frequently inconsistent; it also fails to consult the tenants and neighbours most closely affected by its rural policies, as Roger Scruton states in his article of November 23. "Don't betray our Trust to the townies". At the last minute the trust rejected my request for an independent think-tank but agreed to establish an internal committee to report on these issues.

My view is that an external independent committee is essential, as such a large monopoly charity is neither subject to an outside regulator nor to the National Audit Office. The Charities Commission is not a substitute for either body.

Neither farmer nor donor-family tenants are allowed to stand for the council of the National Trust, thereby depriving it of the benefit of receiving the true views of the countryside at first hand and in confidence.

Yours sincerely,
CLARE MCLAREN-THROCKMORTON,
Coughton Court, Alcester,
Warwickshire B49 5JA.
November 24.

Change in countryside

From the President of the Country Landowners Association

Sir, I suggest that some of Roger Scruton's remarks (November 23) on the demise of the countryside need to be founded on firmer ground. Restructuring of farms into bigger units results from economic need: farms, after all, are businesses — a simple fact that some would seek to forget.

There is a case to be made that some common agricultural policies have encouraged some intensification of farming with some impact on landscape and wildlife habitat. But, overall, landowners and farmers regard their countryside stewardship responsibilities as core requirements of land management. The British countryside is not in terminal decay, as Scruton implies; it remains a treasured asset.

And who are these absentee investors? In England and Wales, 70 per cent of all rural land is farmed by landowner/occupiers: what remains is largely farmed under tenancy agreements with local owners.

Farming and the land-use of our countryside is on the brink of radical change as CAP reform evolves. The challenge now is to manage this period of change with sustainable policies for our agriculture, the environment and, above all, for our rural communities.

These policies are the best way to end the false conflict between town and country.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MACNICOL,
President,
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square,
London SW1X 8PQ.
November 25.

Play on words

From Professor Paul J. Korshin

Sir, I was delighted to read article, "Explicatives not deleted", November 21 that we can trace certain offensive usage to that clever rascal Shakespeare, who "had Hamlet slyly referring to country matters".

May I propose a bold amendment? Why not try assigning these words to Ophelia (as some editions already do), just to see how they play?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. KORSHIN
(Professor of English,
University of Pennsylvania),
1005 Greenwood Avenue,
Wyncote, Pennsylvania 19095.
November 25.

Essential explictive

From Mr R. J. White

Sir, I disagree with your leading article that the word "bloody" was introduced by the Prince of Wales ("Blankety blank", November 21; see also report and photograph, early editions, November 19).

Frankie Howard, who used very little bad language, used to say that the explictive is sometimes essential to turn an ordinary line into a funny one. He told a joke about an hotel guest who was given a trumpet to play if he wanted to know the time in the night. When he did so another guest shouted: "Who's that playing the trumpet at three o'clock in the bloody morning?"

Yours faithfully,
R. J. WHITE,
1 Chemin de la Rive Bergère,
06480 La Colle sur Loup, France.
November 23.

— The *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) is a leading source of information on the latest medical research and clinical practice. It is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research, clinical trials, and reviews of the literature. The journal is published weekly and is available online at www.jama-association.org.

CBI slashes growth forecast back to 0.7%

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday slashed its forecast for UK growth next year and, along with the British Chambers of Commerce, demanded another cut in base rates.

The CBI is now expecting growth of only 0.7 per cent in 1999, below the Chancellor's forecast of 1 to 1.5 per cent, and predicted that unemployment would rise to more than two million. The new growth forecast is 0.5 per cent lower than the one the CBI produced in August. Growth of 1.8 per cent is predicted for 2000.

These forecasts coincided with the

CBI's latest monthly industrial trends survey which showed that total order books remained at their lowest point since 1992. Sterling's fall since the summer helped export orders but domestic orders weakened.

The most dramatic feature of the survey, however, was its measure of price expectations which fell to their lowest level for 23 years and suggested that manufacturing is now in the grip of outright deflation. Figures on price expectations for the coming four months showed that 34 per cent of companies predicted that prices would go down and only 4 per cent expected them to rise.

Kate Barker, CBI chief economic adviser, said: "We face a major slowdown next year and the risks to growth are clearly on the downside, while inflationary pressures are slight." She called for a 0.5 per cent cut in base rates this month.

Gilt prices reached their best levels for seven weeks on hopes that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will cut base rates at its meeting on December 9 and 10.

Testimony before the Treasury Select Committee yesterday by six of the MPC's nine members did nothing to dispel market hopes.

Eddie George, Governor of the

Bank, emphasised that the MPC would be as assiduous in avoiding an undershoot of the Government's inflation target as an overshoot. He also said that this week's news of a record trade deficit in September would weigh in the committee's discussions.

Meanwhile, Willem Buiter, who called for a 0.75 per cent cut in rates in November but only got 0.50 per cent, said that he had seen nothing since that meeting to change his view. This suggested that he will vote in favour of another 0.25 per cent.

The CBI said yesterday that it expected rates to fall to 3.5 per cent by the middle of next year and stay at

that level throughout 2000. Separate figures released yesterday by the British Bankers' Association showed that net consumer credit rose by £203 million in October, a smaller rise than the £946 million recorded in September. Within the total, people were opening for structured personal loans rather than overdrafts or borrowing on credit cards.

However, the Credit Card Research Group said that credit and debit card spending jumped by 17 per cent in October having hit a record low of 11 per cent in September.

Banking survey, page 34

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BOC sells Benelux and German units

BOC GROUP, the UK industrial gases company, is selling its Benelux and German industrial gases operations to Air Liquide of France for £112 million. Announcing the sale, Danny Rosenkrantz, BOC chief executive, said: "It was hard to see our Benelux and German businesses reaching the necessary level of returns despite the excellent efforts of our people in those territories." In the year to September 30, the businesses, which accounted for capital employed of £102.2 million, contributed operating profits of £3 million.

The four businesses being sold are Benelux Bulk & Tonnage, which operates a combined air separation unit and liquefier plant in The Netherlands; Benelux Compressed, which runs a cylinder-filling plant in Belgium; German Hydrogen, which operates a hydrogen gas pipeline; and German Compressed, operator of a cylinder-filling facility in Germany. BOC will use disposal proceeds to cut borrowings. BOC said that it expects the deal, which requires approval from competition authorities, to be completed early in 1999. It said that it will continue to supply helium to a range of industrial buyers and to meet gas needs of European semiconductor customers.

ICL signs for schools

ICL, the information technology company, will today sign the first National Grid for Learning Private Finance Initiative contract. ICL says that the contract, worth £12.5 million, will give 14,000 Scottish schoolchildren throughout Moray access to the latest IT technology. The contract, to be launched today by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, will bring e-mail and controlled Internet access to every Moray schoolchild. Schools will get more than 1,000 new computer terminals, linked to video-conferencing facilities and security cameras.

Ofiel wins court ruling

THE High Court has upheld a ruling by Ofiel, the telecoms regulator, that gives smaller mobile phone operators more marketing freedom. In May Ofiel changed a rule that obliged all network operators to provide airtime to retailers selling mobile services directly to the public. Under the new rule small network operators, comprising Orange and One2One, can choose who they want to market their network services. The application for judicial review was made by Cellcom and a number of other mobile service providers.

Richemont suffers fall

RICHEMONT, the Swiss investment company that owns Rothmans International tobacco and Vendôme Luxury Group, suffered a 3.3 per cent fall in attributable profits to £193.9 million in the first half. Operating profits were 15.1 per cent lower at £479.1 million on turnover down 5.4 per cent to £2.19 billion. However, the group was confident annual earnings would not fall below the previous year's level despite adverse trading conditions. In the 12 months to the end of March attributable profits rose 27.4 per cent to £386 million.

Delta in £27m disposal

DELTA, the engineering and electrical group, yesterday announced the £27 million sale of its materials business to Cerro Metal Products, part of the Marmon group of the US. The disposal comprises four companies based in the UK with 1,080 employees. In 1997 the business earned operating profits of £3.9 million on sales of £66.4 million. Delta said "the outlook for the trading environment for these businesses remains extremely competitive". Delta is currently reducing its asset base by 38 per cent. Delta shares fell 2p to 127½p.

Sedgemoor slips back

SEDGEMOOR, the electronic component distribution company, announced a drop in profits and sales due to "particularly harsh" market conditions. Pre-tax profits fell to £4.2 million from £7.3 million for the six months to September 30, on turnover on continuing operations down from £34.1 million to £30.4 million. Earnings per share were 1.7p (3.2p) but the dividend was increased from 0.5p to 0.6p per share. Tim Salitt, chairman, is retiring and will be replaced by David Tucker, who is currently a director of Wolseley and Renam.

Diploma dividend held

DIPLOMA, the industrial distribution group, is maintaining a total dividend of 14.5p a share even after suffering a fall in pre-tax profits to £13 million from £21.6 million in the year to the end of September. The profits fall was despite an increase in sales to £292.9 million from £257.5 million. Earnings fell to 11.1p a share from 24.9p. The final dividend is 10p a share. The shares fell 7p to 156p yesterday. Christopher Thomas, chairman, said the company had endured "a demanding year with difficult market conditions".

Brockhampton ahead

BROCKHAMPTON HOLDINGS, which trades as Portsmouth Water and supplies water to homes in Hampshire and West Sussex, reported pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 of £4.28 million, up from £4.18 million last time. Turnover for the period was little changed at £14.13 million (£14.10 million), despite a 2.2 per cent uplift in water charges. This was because of lower industrial demand and a reduced number of connections, the company said. Earnings per share were 6.5p (6.3p) and the interim dividend is 1.7p (1.6p).

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10
Austria Sch	20.91	20.91	20.91	20.91
Belgium F	61.49	61.49	61.49	61.49
Canada C\$	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55
Denmark Kr	0.8796	0.8796	0.8796	0.8796
Egypt L.E.	11.35	11.35	11.35	11.35
Finland Mk	5.94	5.94	5.94	5.94
France F	9.96	9.96	9.96	9.96
Germany DM	2.93	2.93	2.93	2.93
Greece Dr	361	361	361	361
Hong Kong \$	13.89	13.89	13.89	13.89
Iceland Lkr	139	139	139	139
Indonesia Rp	15691	15691	15691	15691
Ireland P	7.24	7.24	7.24	7.24
Israel Sh	2.74	2.74	2.74	2.74
Italy Lira	2076	2076	2076	2076
Japan Yen	237.02	237.02	237.02	237.02
Malta M	0.667	0.667	0.667	0.667
Netherlands G	3.362	3.362	3.362	3.362
New Zealand \$	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
Norway Kr	13.07	13.07	13.07	13.07
Portugal Esc	303.05	303.05	303.05	303.05
S Africa R	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10
Spain Ptas	252.25	252.25	252.25	252.25
Sweden Kr	14.32	14.32	14.32	14.32
Switzerland F	2.464	2.464	2.464	2.464
Taiwan N.T.	163.90	163.90	163.90	163.90
Turkey Lira	1.787	1.787	1.787	1.787
USA \$	1.564	1.564	1.564	1.564

Tempus, page 32

ICI sells power station to Enron

BY CARL MORTISHED

ICI has agreed to sell a power station and utilities business at its Teesside chemical plant to Enron for £300 million, reviving hopes that ICI's disposal programme is back on track.

The disposal programme had recently suffered setbacks with the Crosville sale scuppered by US competition authorities. The company needs to sell remaining businesses totalling some £1.5 billion in sales, a large component of which is its ethylene cracker, or catalyst plant, also located on the Wilton site.

BP owns 20 per cent of ICI's cracker and is known to be interested as it still has a requirement for more ethylene. Talks fell apart after the two companies reached a deadlock over price but Mike Buzzacott of BP Chemicals reckons a deal is still on the table.

The Wilton power station, built 50 years ago, mainly supplies steam to chemical customers on Teesside. Profits from the plant and utilities were £35 million last year and ICI said it would book a post-tax profit of £120 million on completion.

Enron said that the Wilton power plant and utilities complemented its own Teesside Power Station, built some six years ago. Enron's 1,875 megawatt plant is the largest gas-fired station in the world, dwarfing the 155-megawatt Wilton plant.

BA's CityFlyer Express buyout reaps venture capital rewards

BY ADAM JONES

BRITISH AIRWAYS is buying CityFlyer Express, one of its franchisees, for £75 million, leading to a windfall for venture capitalists and managers. The deal has also prompted a new row between BA and Virgin Atlantic, which claimed yesterday that it was not given a fair chance to bid for the airline itself.

CityFlyer is the second-biggest user of Gatwick Airport — after BA — running services to several European cities, including Amsterdam, Newcastle, Dublin and Zurich. Its staff wear BA uniforms and the planes are decorated with the full BA livery.

In the last financial year, it made a pre-tax profit of £6.4 million on sales of £59.4 million. CityFlyer is 40 per cent owned by staff, including Robert Wright, the co-founder, and Brad Burgess, the managing director. The other 60 per cent is owned by a consortium of venture capitalists led by 3i and including Mercury Asset Management, Gresham Trust and Friends Ivory & Sims.

They are celebrating massive increases in their capital. It is understood that Mercury, for instance, has turned an investment of about £300,000 into nearly £10 million.

BA said the deal did not mean that it was abandoning its franchise system, the expansion of which had led some observers to suggest — to the irri-



Brad Burgess, CityFlyer Express managing director, and Angela Lane, of 3i, celebrating the £75 million deal yesterday

tation of Bob Ayling, the chief executive — that it was seeking to become a "virtual airline", contracting out much of the actual flying and concentrating on marketing and sales.

Mr Ayling said: "No job losses will result from the pur-

chase and neither does it signal a change in our franchise strategy of working with airlines to spread our brand."

Richard Branson said Virgin Atlantic had been approached by HSBC, the CityFlyer adviser, in the spring of

this year as a possible buyer for CityFlyer. He said he was never supplied with a price despite requests and claimed BA might have had a secretive pre-emption right.

BA and CityFlyer denied this yesterday but Mr Branson said he would pursue the matter with the Office of Fair Trading.

One source close to the discussions with Virgin claimed, however, that Virgin had been asked to make an offer, setting its own price, but refused.

IMF social policy tops G7 agenda

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Group of Seven industrialised nations is actively discussing the idea of merging the interim and development committees of the International Monetary Fund. Such a merger would, for the first time, force the IMF to take account of social and structural policies alongside financial and economic issues.

Discussions about a merger are running in parallel to a French proposal, aired at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington in October, that the interim committee should be strengthened and given executive and voting powers.

However, there is a growing view among G7 officials and economic development professionals that social policy has to be integrated into the mainstream work of the IMF and that, far from achieving this, a strengthened interim committee would further downgrade

social policy and the work of the development committee.

It is believed the World Bank, which is not represented on the interim committee, supports a merger that would, for the first time, give it an active voice at the top table of policymaking within the IMF.

Social policy has been given far more emphasis than ever before since the Asian crisis erupted more than a year ago. In the G7 statement of October 30, it agreed to a new World Bank emergency facility to provide extra concessional funding to the most vulnerable social groups, saying that more attention should be given to the poor in times of crisis.

It remains the case, however, that IMF adjustment plans often mean cuts to social programmes. The hope of those who support a merger between the interim and development committees is that social spending could be ring-fenced.

German's withdrawal hits Scotia

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Scotia Holdings fell 28½p to 89p, close to a record low, yesterday when Boehringer Ingelheim terminated its agreement to develop Foscan, the cancer drug that is the British company's most important product.

The German pharmaceutical company was one of two development partners that last year agreed to pay Scotia up to \$39 million (£23 million) for the rights to Foscan, which is activated by laser beam. This was regarded as an important validation of the drug.

Boehringer Ingelheim said it was dropping Foscan because of the strength of its own cancer pipeline. It said it still believed Foscan was "an interesting and valuable product". Scotia said it remained optimistic about Foscan. It will not have to return any of the \$21 million it has received.

UK productivity data 'flawed'

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN'S efforts to address Britain's apparently poor productivity record are likely to be futile because the problem has been greatly overstated, a new report claims.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies argues that the figures on which the Chancellor has based his productivity campaign are flawed and that in reality there is little productivity gap between the UK and its main competitors.

Mr Brown stated in the pre-Budget report earlier this month that UK productivity lags France and Germany by 20 per cent and the US by 40 per cent.

However, Rachel Griffith and Helen Simpson, the authors of *Productivity and the Role of Government*, argue that the Chancellor has failed to adjust his figures to take into account longer working hours in the US and the greater proportion of out-dated

plant machinery used by British industry.

If workers' hours are included in the calculation, the productivity gap with the US is halved. The gap almost entirely disappears if the data is adjusted for the state of factory machinery.

As a result, the report argues that Britain's fundamental problem is one of historically low levels of investment. It argues that policies outlined by Mr Brown to tackle this problem — including R&D tax credits, increased capital allowances for small firms and a change to the tax treatment of venture capital investments — will help tackle some of the problems.

However, the IFS cautions that the benefits are likely to be limited because small firms do not account for a large overall share of investment.

Commentary, page 31

Perpetual warning on volatility

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

PERPETUAL, the fund management group, achieved a 22.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £72.8 million in the year to September 30 but gave warning that earnings growth was at the mercy of volatile stock markets.

An otherwise favourable financial year ended badly as world stock markets collapsed, wiping £1.8 billion off Perpetual's funds under management, more than twice the amount it took from new investors.

Although assets under the company's control have since recovered to £9.8 billion, this is £600 million less than Perpetual managed in March.

Martyn Arbib, chairman, said the progress of the stock market and the Government's launch of individual savings accounts (Isas) — which will replace Peps and Tassas from next April — were the "two challenging issues" facing the company in the coming year.

If markets remained resilient the final sales of Peps would be "buoyant" he said. Thereafter, the complexity of Isas and their lower investment levels would result in "muted" sales for the second half of the year. However, Mr Arbib said this would be compensated for by Perpetual's entry into the personal pensions market in the new year.

Perpetual is paying a final dividend of 38p, bringing the total for the year to 75p, up from 62p in 1997.

Cashflow bond raises £210m for RoadChef

ROADCHEF, the motorway service station group in which Nikko, the finance house, took a 45 per cent stake earlier this year, has raised £210 million from investors with a bond issue using cashflow as security (Richard Miles writes).

RoadChef was bought for £175 million by a consortium of Nikko's principal finance

unit, RoadChef management and a fund advised by Cabot Square Capital. RoadChef subsequently absorbed Blue Boar and Take A Break, two smaller service station companies, in an £80 million deal.

Tim Ingram Hill, RoadChef chairman, said the bond will fund expansion and refinance initial acquisition debt.

IN Business life TOMORROW
Ian Livingstone, chairman of Eidos, opens up his office in Work Station plus
Who really runs Britain's companies



You no longer have to cram everything into a short working day.

The new 07.55 London Gatwick to Düsseldorf, returning at 18.15.
Services operated by the independent carrier CityFlyer Express Limited.

BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

فكترا من الأمل

Bristol United identifies bid for...

Two As factors...

Weather restricts Fuller's...

ells Benelux erman units

Benelux Bulk & Transport, a unit of the Benelux Group, is selling its operations to the German company, BOC. The unit was hard to sell, and the company was struggling to reach the new owner. The unit was sold for £10.2 million.

is for schools

Will today sign the Finance Initiative. The £12.5 million will be used to launch a new school. The school will be named after the Finance Initiative.

is court ruling

The court has ruled that the company must pay the damages. The court has ruled that the company must pay the damages.

nt suffers fall

The company has suffered a fall in its share price. The company has suffered a fall in its share price.

£27m disposal

The company has disposed of £27 million. The company has disposed of £27 million.

or slips back

The company has slipped back. The company has slipped back.

dividend held

The company has held its dividend. The company has held its dividend.

npton ahead

The company is ahead in Npton. The company is ahead in Npton.

RIST RATES

The company has set its risk rates. The company has set its risk rates.

ISH AIRWAYS

The company has set its risk rates. The company has set its risk rates.

Non-exec stress holds key at M&S



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

For almost three weeks the non-executive directors of Marks & Spencer have been coping with a crisis. Brian Baldock and Dame Stella Rimington, in particular, have been working extraordinarily long hours trying to sort out the seemingly insurmountable task of running the company. While this crucial issue for the future of the company was being decided, various of their boardroom colleagues were dashing round the world on behalf of other organisations. Conference calls aid communication but the unusual, and some might argue unnecessary, task of finding a chief executive in less than 20 days required the time-and-a-half involvement of those who were leading the hunt.

Such crises are, of course, best avoided but in the real world leading companies will increasingly be caught by surprise by events. That is when the executives call upon their non-executive colleagues and when the latter really begin to earn their fees, and more.

If non-executive directors are to be valuable to a business, then they need to be able to do very much more than turn up for monthly meetings, although even dealing with the paperwork for those can be a time-consuming business. This raises the question of what commitment should be expected from a non-executive director, and what remuneration in return.

Brian Baldock was paid £50,000 by M&S last year and

Dame Stella, a former head of M15, a meagre £34,000. At that level of remuneration, it is not, perhaps, surprising that the majority of non-executives feel that they need to assemble a portfolio of directorships to sustain themselves.

These people may be brilliant minds, able to switch from one company to another, one industry to another, without any confusion or time conflicts. The legendary Lord Marshall, for instance, was this week merging Siebe with BTR without any hint of being preoccupied by the crowded agenda that he juggles.

But if companies are to get the best from such talents, they may want rather more time than some multi-directorship individuals can devote to them.

At Marks & Spencer, the succession has been settled — up to a point. A new chairman — a high-powered outsider, even if not Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth — will have to be found to succeed Sir Richard Greenbury. In the meantime, the challenge for the directors will be to ensure that Peter Salisbury is allowed to do the job he has been appointed to with support, but not dictatorship, from the chairman. It could be a time-consuming challenge. Industry needs to give deep

consideration to the evolving role of non-executives, who are, in any case, mis-named. They may be part-time, but directors could hardly be more executive than Mr Baldock, Dame Stella and their colleagues have been forced to be in recent days. A new job description, and the money to make it worthwhile, could ensure that boards make a more positive contribution. Then some crises might even be avoided.

Exxon follows the path of Saddam

Big oil has been cutting costs for most of the 1990s to accommodate oil prices that refused to match the optimistic expectations on which boards had based their budgets. Eventually it ran out of cuts and still the oil price fell. Merging with rivals has become the only way to find new costs to cut and to deliver increasing returns that are just not available from normal trading. BP broke ranks when it agreed

a \$50 billion takeover of Amoco in the spring, creating the world's biggest industrial merger. Not for long. Now Mobil seems likely to become Exxon's \$60 billion Thanksgiving turkey, reuniting America's two biggest oil companies 87 years after the US anti-trust authorities tore them apart.

Amazingly, reconstituting the guts of the old Standard Oil would still make it only the third most valuable company on Wall Street. Once the two-day hiatus of Thanksgiving is past, both stocks can be expected to spurt, but "Exoil" is still likely to lag a few dozen billion behind US General Electric and Microsoft, the trust busters' latest target.

The first truly global industry, the model for all future multinationals and intercontinental leviathans, is no longer top dog. Information technology and pharmaceuticals, which are less exposed to economic cycles, have rushed past. Finance is on the march.

Such new realities help to explain how shares of the biggest corporations can keep rising, di-

vorced from wavering and unpropitious economic prospects. In the era of shareholder value, economic reality is no excuse for the falling profits that Exxon and Mobil, along with other oil companies, will make this year and are likely to show next.

Losers must come up with something. Consolidation to cut competition aims to cut \$2 billion a year from BP/Amoco's combined costs. "Exoil" might cut three times that, after an even bigger one-off massacre of jobs.

Regulators no longer seem to worry so much about mergers to consolidate troubled industries. That even applies to oil, whose competitive credentials always excite deep suspicions.

Some assets would just have to be sold, in this case partly to BP. And if this deal founders, surely Mobil will merge with Chevron, or buy Atlantic Richfield, and Exxon will find another partner.

quarter-century low in real terms this week, and no longer have enough power to fix the price.

There might be a case for consolidation there, too, allowing bigger players to cut excess output. But when Saddam Hussein tried that on Kuwait, the authorities took a somewhat different line.

Brown has his work cut out

Productivity always seemed an odd issue for Gordon Brown to make the core theme of the next Budget. The term itself is enough to send most of the population to sleep, while there is little agreement among the economics profession about how productivity can be effectively measured. It is the kind of issue normally best left to learned papers and earnest expert debate.

None of this has deterred the Chancellor from using productivity as a stick to prod Britain's management. Mr Brown has indicated that the Treasury will do what it can to improve Britain's record but much of the impetus must come from industry itself. Yet this approach is littered with pitfalls, not least that it is unclear the productivity record of British

industry is nearly as dismal as the Chancellor likes to claim.

Yesterday it was the turn of the respected Institute for Fiscal Studies to join the fray, pointing out that the data the Chancellor likes to wheel out is a little on the crude side. If working hours and the poor state of Britain's physical capital is taken into account, there does not appear to be much of a productivity gap, the IFS claims. The problem is one of underinvestment rather than productivity and here the Government is probably more at fault than the private sector. The IFS concludes, in rather pessimistic fashion, that it will take at least a generation to turn Britain's investment performance around. Even by the Chancellor's own high productivity standards, he will have his work cut out solving this one by March.

Marley apparition

MARLEY has spent the best part of a decade out on the tiles without attracting a partner. Nor was there, it seems, any prospect. In the end, frustrated value hunter Phillips & Drew, still stuck with 15 per cent of Marley shares and badly needing performance, has lost its patience and sponsored what amounts to a management buy-in. An all-share offer would leave Marley holders with 94 per cent of the combined group, but P&D is pledged to the cheeky outsiders' break-up plan if no normal bidder emerges. Shareholders should not have to resort to quite such desperate measures.

Hostile bid rejected by Marley

By Kimberly McDonald

MARLEY, the building materials group, yesterday rejected a £283 million hostile bid from John Mansfield, the timber merchant, calling the all-share offer unacceptable.

Mansfield, which is backed by Bryan Myerson and Julian Treger's UK Active Value fund, said it was offering 15 new shares in its company for every Marley share held. It said it would break up Marley by ousting its management team and selling its concrete and clay business.

The bid values Marley shares at 97½p. They leapt 13p to close at 98½p yesterday, indicating that the City believes that a higher offer for the group will materialise.

Marley's single largest shareholder is Phillips & Drew Fund Management, with 14.9 per cent. It is irrevocably committed to accept the offer, and in an unusual move, agreed to underwrite Mansfield's bid costs in the event that a higher offer emerges. UK Active Value has a history of shareholder activism which

has shaken up companies as diverse as Signet, Greycoat and Kenwood. It is chaired by Stuart Wallis, who made his reputation turning around Fisons, the pharmaceutical group, and worked with UKAV on shaking up Scholl, the footwear and personal products group.

Mansfield said yesterday that Marley's management had comprehensively failed its shareholders. "Marley's recently announced strategic review offers no realistic prospect for the enhancement of Marley's shareholder value," it added.

Analysts said the company has acquired various disparate businesses in different geographic areas and remains plagued by static sales and a languishing stock price.

The last straw came last month, when Marley further infuriated its institutional shareholders by allowing its chief executive and other senior employees to replace worthless options under the company's share-save scheme with new, lower-priced options that were likely to yield a handsome profit.

Weather restricts Fuller's

By Dominic Walsh

POOR summer weather and a big jump in development costs restricted half-year performance at Fuller's, the London brewer and pub operator.

The group nevertheless lifted pre-tax profits by 8 per cent to £6.53 million in the half year to September 26. Earnings per share reached 17.89p (16.73p) and the interim dividend per "A" share is 6 per cent higher at 3.82p.

Fuller's lifted capital expenditure from £7.2 million to £12.6 million, much of the focus being on Fine Line, its new bar concept. Four are already up and running and four further sites are in the pipeline. The recently acquired The Fence in Central London is also to be rolled out as a retail brand.

The difficult summer restricted like-for-like sales growth at its managed inns and hotels division to just 1 per cent. The brewing division lifted own-beer sales by 8 per cent in a declining ale market, although like-for-like volumes in its tenanted estate were 3 per cent down.

Two Laura Ashley factories go

By Sarah Cunningham

LAURA ASHLEY, the troubled clothing retailer, is set to make about 170 staff redundant after closing two of its factories. The job losses will cost the company £2 million.

An eleven-month search by the retailer has failed to find a buyer for its five factories. The two that are now set to close are at Oswestry, Shropshire, and at Helmond, in The Netherlands. Oswestry employs 73 staff while Helmond has 71. The company is cutting a further 28 jobs at its factory at Carmo, in Mid Wales.

Stephen Cox, company secretary, said that about 20 more jobs are being created at Gresford, another of its Welsh factories, to take over some of the work done at the factories that are closing. Gresford currently employs 145 people, while Carmo now has 203 and Tezplan, the company's third Welsh factory, employs 212.

Redundancy and closure costs will come out of £9 million set aside last year.

New pattern, page 33

Bristol United Press identifies bid targets

BRISTOL United Press, the regional newspaper group, has identified a number of possible targets for acquisitions. The group is encouraged in the search by the performance of Wessex Newspapers, its most recent acquisition, which made an operating profit of £2.2 million in its second six months in group ownership. The Wessex result, achieved

despite increased investment in editorial content, helped to boost Bristol's pre-tax profits to a record £11.4 million in the six months to September 30. This compared with £6.9 million last time and was after a £2.8 million exceptional profit from selling 52 newsgazettes. Earnings per share before exceptional items rose from 16.06p to 21.27p. The interim dividend is 6.75p, up 12.5 per cent.

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Choice for over-employed frontbenchers

The City may no longer offer a guaranteed retirement post for Conservative former ministers, but this has not stopped the current crop of Tory frontbenchers from seeking out part-time business posts to supplement their meagre MPs' income. An analysis of the Parliamentary Register of Members' Interests reveals that half the Shadow Cabinet benefit from paid posts, while a number of other Tory frontbenchers have multiple roles.

This extra-curricular activity seems to divide them into two camps — those capitalising on City contacts to take jobs in business and those profiting from the rise of the paid Parliamentary adviser. Many of the City posts represent a continuation of former careers. Sir Norman Fowler, home affairs spokesman, has long been involved with Regional Independent Media Holdings, the newspaper group owning the *Yorkshire*

Post and the *Sheffield Star*, and continues as its non-executive chairman. However, his chairmanship of Numark, the pharmacy group, is a more recent affair and could indicate that even Sir Norman does not see his unexpected return to the front bench as more than temporary.

If Sir Norman's outside commitments are an understandable insurance policy for a man reaching the end of his political career, the same cannot be said of Francis Maude, Shadow Chancellor and widely tipped as a future Tory leader. Mr Maude spent five profitable years in the political wilderness, after losing his seat in the 1992 election, working as international privatisation director for Morgan Stanley. He has maintained his contacts

with the US investment bank, even if he no longer has a formal role. Mr Maude has also acquired four other City directorships, including a place on the board of Asda, the supermarket company chaired by his friend and colleague Archie Norman.

Although the City still yields some painful employment for Tory frontbenchers, the real job opportunities appear to lie as paid Parliamentary advisers. The undoubted kings of this trade are John Greenway, home affairs spokesman, and Patrick Nicholls, agriculture spokesman. Mr Greenway enjoys a substantial top-up to his MPs' salary from five paid consultancies. Some of these positions reflect his background as an insurance broker, but he has also just finished a contract as Parliamentary adviser to Yorkshire-Tees Television and continues to work on behalf of the ITV association, the Institute of Sales Promotion and the British Promotional Merchandise Association. Mr Nicholls enjoys a hefty private income advising six organisations as diverse as the Clinical Dental Technicians Association and the British Hardware Industry Forum.

Inevitably, such a range of outside employment has left some Tory frontbenchers vulnerable to potential conflicts of interest. Only last week, Francis Maude was accused by a Labour MP of concealing his interest in the Garmore Shared Equity Trust during debate on the introduction of individual savings accounts (Isas). Mr Maude has vigorously denied this allegation, pointing out that this arm of Garmore has no interest in Isas, but the dangers of a shadow Treasury team with wide City interests — especially when it has led the assault on

Geoffrey Robinson's lapses of memory — is all too clear. David Willets, education and employment spokesman, has also run into flak over his £25,000, one-day-a-month consultancy for Monitor, a US firm specialising in workplace issues. Although, again, there was no suggestion that Mr Willets had breached any guidelines, Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, may have had the Willets case in mind when he warned Tory frontbenchers that they must take "great care" when taking up consultancies.

Yet the conflict-of-interest issue is not insurmountable, provided frontbenchers adhere to the strict but clear Parliamentary guidelines. Far more pernicious is the perception that

too many Tory MPs are only concerned with feathering their own nests rather than reviving the fortunes of their party. Most non-executive roles do not involve a big commitment of time — normally about a day a month — but serial directorships and consultancies must detract from frontbench duties. At the same time, the roles are not extensive enough to suggest that frontbenchers may be gaining some valuable insight into the "real world". The increasing professionalisation of both politics and business has made the old model of frontbench MPs maintaining a foot in both camps no longer tenable. Over-employed frontbenchers need to decide whether they value their personal income or value their personal income or value their political careers more highly.

Fabric of textile industry woven into new pattern by shake-out

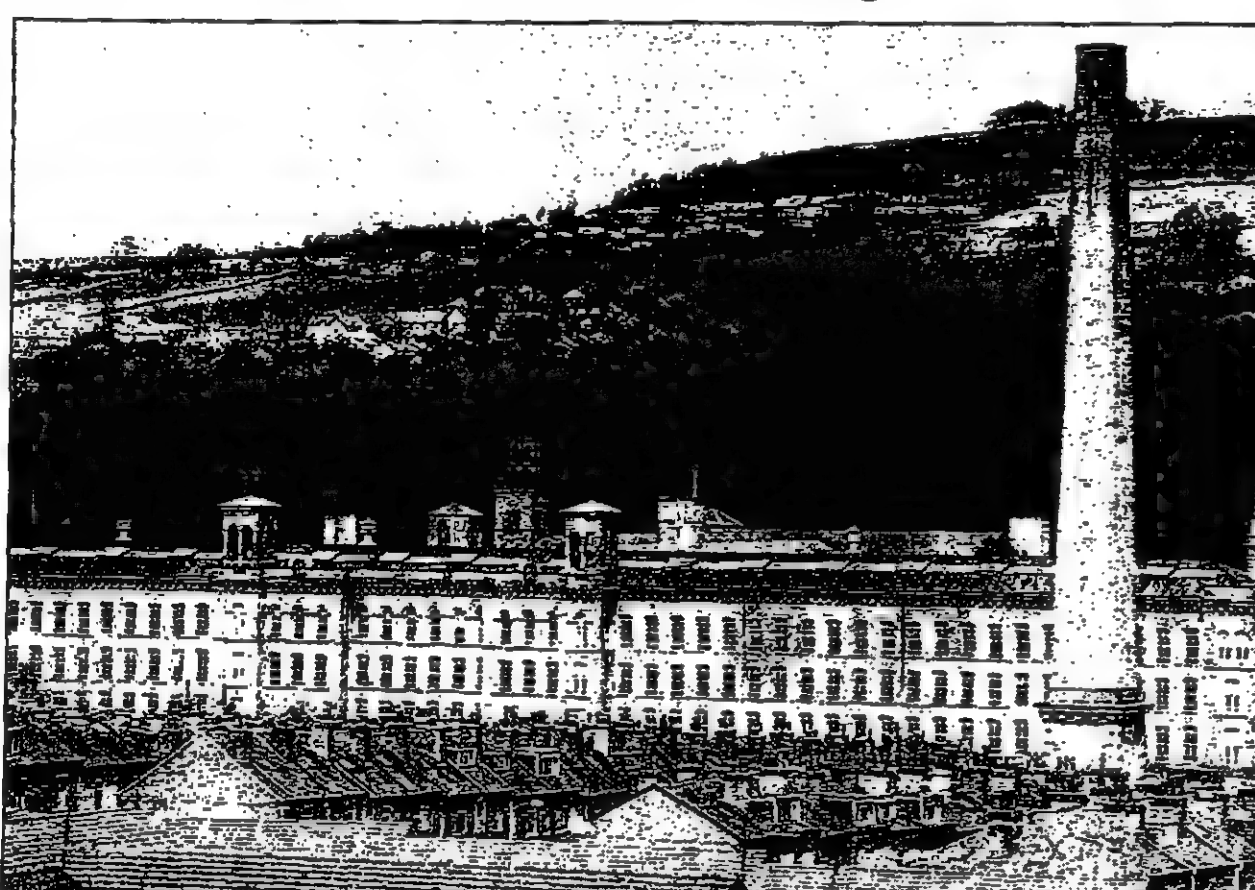
Jason Nissé says evolution will leave Britain with fewer and leaner woollen mills

Salts Mill is one of the most famous tourist attractions in West Yorkshire. Standing solidly in the banks of the Leeds-Liverpool canal, some five miles west of Bradford, the mill was built in the 1850s by Sir Titus Salt, the textile magnate and philanthropist, as part of his attempts to create a humane environment for his workers, many of whom had left the countryside to try to eke a living in the textile mills that were the symbol of Britain's Industrial Revolution.

But no cloth has been made at Salts Mill for nearly a decade since Drummond Group, which bought Salts of Saltaire from a rival textile firm, Ilwong Morris, closed the factory. The building is now occupied jointly by Pace, the maker of set-top boxes for the new digital television revolution, and an art gallery, dedicated to the work of David Hockney. It stands as a symbol of the slow death of the British textile industry in general, and the Yorkshire woollen industry in particular.

This week three events have symbolised how desperate matters have become. On Wednesday the Transport & General Workers' Union lobbied Parliament, calling for a national strategy to help the textile industry. The T&G says that the industry — which still employs 370,000 in the UK, or 10 per cent of the manufacturing workforce — is shedding 500 jobs a day. "We want lower interest rates and an export campaign in Europe," the T&G said. "We also want more pressure to be placed on retailers to buy clothing made in the UK."

The final point was a dig at Marks & Spencer, which, in addition to its own problems, is being blamed for softening its "buy British" policy and sourcing products from Rabat which it previously would



No cloth has been made at Salts Mill for nearly a decade. It stands as a symbol of the slow death of the British textile industry

have bought from Rotherham and from Porto when previously it would have bought from Peterlee. M&S has long been a target for union and industry wrath. At the Labour Party conference, M&S was depicted as a shark eating British jobs. However, under Sir Richard Greenbury, M&S has bowed to economic reality, arguing the customers will not pay a premium for British goods, so why should M&S. Many textile companies have been quick to blame M&S for their difficulties, with suppliers such as Dewhurst, William Baird and Claremont Garments, either stating or hinting that falling orders from the high street's largest retailer were behind factory closures and job losses.

But one director of a Yorkshire textile company argued that it is wrong to lay too many of the problems at M&S's door. "You can blame M&S, and there are many who will join you. But the problem is not that M&S is now abandoning British textile firms, but that

they supported us for so long. We started depending on them and believing that so long as M&S would buy from us we would be all right. But M&S is not a charity, it's a business. And so are we. They have their commercial priorities and we have to live with them."

The second event was Laura Ashley's decision yesterday to close its manufacturing facilities in Wales, after a fruitless ten-month search for a buyer. Sir Bernard Ashley, like the Siefis at M&S, was a strong supporter of manufacturing in the UK. But the Welsh factories were uneconomic, despite a large amount of government help, as the same products could be made just as well, and far more cheaply, in developing countries in Asia and North Africa.

Laura Ashley had, in the past, turned down offers to buy the factories, largely because they would have involved closing them down. (One of the offers had come from Coats Vycela, another company with a

good record of investing in Britain, particularly in Northern Ireland, and whose profits and shares have suffered as a result.) With Sir Bernard out of the way at Ashley, the company was able to make the tough decision that many have seen as inevitable for many years.

The third event was the bid announced on Monday for Parkland, one of the most ailing of all the sickly woollen manufacturers in Yorkshire. The offer was recommended by Parkland's board yesterday. The Hanson family, one of Parkland's largest shareholders, is bidding to take the company private in a deal that values a company with more than £536 million of turnover at just £5.36 million. Though Parkland has had its own particular problems — not least a faulted strategy of spending its way out of difficulty by investing £16 million in a new dyeing plant in Nottingham — the bid was the latest step in a radical

restructuring of the textile industry. According to John Hanson, who is leading the attempt to buy Parkland: "The UK suffers from a chronic manufacturing overcapacity in worsted fabrics and woollen yarns, and consolidation in the industry is urgently needed."

Acting up

THE man in charge of the OFT's cartel-busting SWAT team acquired a taste for drama early in life. Adrian Walker-Smith's first job was as a child actor, a career that lasted until he was 18. The civil servant recalls performing in *Noddy in Toy Town* in the role of Chief of the Red Coblins. Walker-Smith, now 51, is clearly looking forward to the prospect of pursuing Britain's business baddies. He joined the competition authority 11 years ago. "I was tempted by an advertisement that said: 'Join the OFT and hunt down cartels,'" he recalls.

His expanding team are being trained by Customs and Excise in the art of arriving at a corporate HQ without an appointment. And how to spot the secret price-fixing meetings as you flick through the sales director's desk diary while the chairman looks nervously over your shoulder.

Regrettably, Walker-Smith will miss out on the fun bits of the job. Being a model of probity, the OFT requires that the man in charge keep his distance from the actual investigation. "It is one of my great sadnesses that I cannot go out and knock on doors."



"Oates has gone and he may be some time"

ARCH ad man Peter Mead was not his usual lucid self yesterday. Following the revelation of bid talks with Omnicom, the chairman of Abbot Mead Vickers (who was responsible for BT's "It's good to talk" slogan) was given a minder from Credit Suisse First Boston, the merchant bank, to stop him from revealing too much to the press. By mid-afternoon the constant presence of the minder was clearly beginning to wear Mead down. "It's like making love to a woman with her husband in the room," he said. "I'll take his word for that."

Sloe, sloe

WHILE Diageo is busy trying to prove that big is best in the drinks industry, one small West Country distiller is proving that small is not so bad, either.

Plymouth Gin, which was selling just 7,000 cases when it was the subject of a buyout from Allied Domeq in 1996, expects sales to reach 45,000 cases this year. Indeed, in the UK it claims to be selling at least half the volume of the designer brand Bombay Sapphire — despite having had no marketing investment to speak of.

But it clearly has a long way to go before it matches the big boys. It was only able to compare itself with its rivals after borrowing somebody else's

copy of the latest AC Nielsen statistics. "We don't have the money to buy the Nielsen data," admits Charles Rolls, Plymouth managing director.

Pub crawl

STILL with Diageo: Tony Blair was in almost whimsical mood during yesterday's historic address to both houses of Ireland's Parliament. Recalling childhood summers spent in the countryside of Donegal, he said: "It was there — that my father took me to my first pub, a remote little house in the country, for a Guinness — a taste I've never forgotten and always a pleasure to repeat."

and a bungled succession process combined to leave its jealously guarded reputation in tatters. Also, its retail rival Tesco topped the overall poll to grab the title of the UK's Most Admired Company, leaving M&S trailing in 11th place.

DAVID THOMPSON, the genial managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, was in a playful mood yesterday after launching a hostile £262 million bid for its Midlands rival Marston, Thompson & Evershed. I asked him if he'd had any thoughts about a name for the combined group. "I rather like Marston, Thompson & Evershed," he chuckled.

Top Marks

SOME good news for M&S as it attempts to pick up the pieces. In a survey of 1,500 board directors, published yesterday, it was named as the most admired retail store in the land. Unfortunately for M&S the research was carried out over the summer, before poor trading

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BBA survey debunks borrowing myths

By RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A FASCINATING snapshot of people's borrowing habits emerged yesterday when the British Bankers' Association (BBA) produced its first detailed breakdown of the monthly mortgage and consumer credit figures.

The findings of the BBA, the membership of which accounts for about two-thirds of UK lending after the conversion of several building societies last year, appear to kill off some of the more widely propagated myths about people and their money.

Reliance on overdrafts, for example, has waned steadily in recent years, suggesting that the public has woken

up to the often exorbitant cost of this form of borrowing. Four years ago, overdrafts represented 20 per cent of personal lending by banks. Today, that figure is below 13 per cent, as borrowers switch to personal loans.

Perhaps more surprisingly, the BBA figures indicate that most people do not use credit cards to borrow money, another expensive way of obtaining a loan. Instead, they use plastic as an alternative way to pay, settling their bills regularly each month. This past October, for instance, repayments almost entirely offset new credit.

Not is there any evidence of "distress borrowing" which one might expect against a backdrop of gathering economic gloom, said David

Dooks, the BBA's director of statistics. "Business surveys may show less confidence about the economy, but people do not feel any less confident about their own economic well-being," Mr Dooks said.

The BBA has carried out a similar exercise on its monthly mortgage figures, distinguishing between buyers of new homes and existing borrowers seeking to remortgage their houses. It also identifies those borrowers who want to raise additional money on their property, either to finance home improvements or to tap into the equity locked up in their homes.

Remortgages now account for roughly a third of all new lending in the housing market — 34 per cent by

volume and 31 per cent by value in October — as borrowers seek a better deal in a more competitive market. A year ago remortgage business accounted for less than 16 per cent of the number of home loans granted by banks.

The rapid growth of the remortgage market has taken some lenders by surprise, in particular Halifax, the country's biggest mortgage provider. At the half year, Halifax disclosed that redemptions by borrowers seeking to remortgage elsewhere on more competitive terms, outstripped new loans, leaving the bank with a zero share of net new lending. Halifax has subsequently re-entered the remortgage market with vigour.

Loans for home improvement or

equity release, which have gained in popularity with elderly customers whose sole asset is typically their home, have remained fairly stable as a proportion of total mortgage business, running at about 7 per cent. However, demand for such loans seems highest when the housing market stalls. "It tends to be counter-cyclical to house prices," Mr Dooks said. The Credit Card Research Group said yesterday that monthly credit and debit card spending topped £10 billion in October for the first time since last Christmas. The group attributed the increase to an unprecedented level of competition in the market, which has helped to push up the number of cards in issue to almost 40 million.

European Commission raids BPB premises

By CHRIS AYRES

SHARES IN BPB fell 42p to 217p yesterday after the plasterboard manufacturer admitted that several of its offices had been raided by European Commission officials.

The investigation is thought to be into pricing and anti-competitive behaviour in the European plasterboard industry, which is controlled by three large companies: Knauf, of Germany; Lafarge, of France; and BPB, of Britain.

The investigation, which also involves several technical issues, could take up to a year to complete, Jean-Pierre Cuny, BPB's chief executive, said yesterday. "BPB is co-operating fully with these inquiries. Until the Commission's investigation is completed, no further statement can be made on this matter."

The Commission investigation almost entirely eclipsed BPB's results, which showed a small rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to September

30 to £89.6 million from £89 million. However, including the cost of closing its Radcliffe mill in Manchester, and its bond-buying exercise, pre-tax profits were £68.6 million.

M Cuny said: "Unlike last year, when the second half saw much faster growth in plasterboard volumes than the first, the overall trend of trading now suggests slower growth for the remainder of the year."

"However, the contribution from additional sales volume and greater cost-saving initiatives should broadly offset the effects of continued cost and selling price pressures, and new business development expenditure."

He added that he thought the price of plasterboard would improve, after a period of intense pressure created by the industry's biggest players fighting over market share. "We do not think we have lost market share," he said.

Sales at the company fell nearly 2 per cent from £698 million to £687 million, while earnings per share rose slightly from 11.5p to 11.6p. An interim dividend of 4p will be paid in April.

M Cuny said BPB was looking to expand into Asia, and that it had up to £200 million to spend on acquisitions, with the aim of developing complementary products.

BPB said it still planned to go ahead with its share buy-back programme, but added that it did not know what percentage of stock it would purchase. It has permission from shareholders to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.



Cuny: prices will improve

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Geoff Gibson, finance director, left, and Martin Buckley regard exceptional costs as the short-term price for being growth-led

Underlying fall at Waddington

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

WADDINGTON, the packaging and printing company, suffered a fall in underlying profits and turnover in the first half but said that its retained confidence about its ability to withstand difficult trading conditions.

In the six months to October 3 profits before exceptional charges fell to £16.3 million from £17.1 million on turnover of £165.1 million, down from £169.8 million.

Martin Buckley, chief executive, said: "We are never going to be a totally risk-free business. We are anxious to grow and exceptional costs are the short-term price for being forward-looking and growth-led."

The sale of businesses over the past six months, including last month's sale of European Cartons for £67.5 million, gave rise to a gross profit of £20.8 million. The consequent

writedown of goodwill of £28.2 million resulted in an exceptional loss of £7.4 million, reducing pre-tax profits to £8.9 million from £17.1 million in the first half of the previous year.

Net borrowings have been reduced from £71.5 million to £44 million and gearing has fallen from 70 per cent to 3 per cent.

Sales in the pharmaceutical packaging division rose to £28.1 million (£20.4 million) as a result of organic growth and the impact of recent acquisitions in the US. Sales in the specialist printing division fell to £49 million (£52.4 million) with operating profits broadly maintained at £6 million (£5.9 million).

Adjusted earnings were 11.75p a share (11.74p). The interim dividend is lifted to 5p a share from 4.7p. The shares fell 11p to 181p.



Goldstone: still confident

First-half loss results in dividend cut by Regalian

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

REGALIAN PROPERTIES, the upmarket property developer, has cut its interim dividend after incurring a £279,000 loss in the first half, compared with a pre-tax profit of £2.2 million in the first half of the previous year.

The interim dividend is reduced to 0.25p a share from 0.475p. The company said it expected to make a profit in the second half, but restated a previous warning that full-year profits would not match the £6.7 million earned in the previous 12 months.

David Goldstone, the chairman, said: "As we warned at the company's AGM earlier this year, the construction of

West and Chelsea Gate projects in the second half. In the last recession Regalian suffered when it was left holding hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of expensive property that could not be sold. Worries that Regalian could suffer from the fallout of the Far East economic crisis have resurfaced recently. But Mr Goldstone said he was confident that domestic demand for London property is strong enough to compensate for any downturn in Asian demand.

The Point West development in Kensington has attracted substantial interest, with 202 of the 267 apartments now either completed, exchanged or reserved.

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Caledonia boosted by disposal figure of £61m

By RICHARD MILES

A PROFIT from disposals of £61 million helped Caledonia Investments, the diversified trading and investment company, to boost half-year pre-tax profits by more than 360 per cent to £81.2 million.

However, the one-off gains masked a slight decline in Caledonia's underlying business. Operating profits for the six months to September 30 fell by 13 per cent to £20.1 million, largely reflecting a drop in equity values during the period.

Peter Buckley, chairman, said Caledonia had amassed cash of £106 million from disposals, which included the

sale of Abacus, the self-storage business, and a reduction from 25 to 20 per cent of its holding in Close Brothers, the investment bank.

The disposals, by a group that in the past has been reluctant to sell its investments, has left Caledonia with 30 per cent of its assets in cash. Mr Buckley said the strong cash position left the company well-placed against a "world economic outlook which remains very uncertain".

Caledonia attributed the fall in operating profits to the performance of subsidiaries such as Exco, the finance house,

which has merged with the broking operation of Inter-capital, and London Forfeiting, the trade finance firm.

Caledonia has since raised its stake in Close Brothers to 21 per cent. Abacus, built up over ten years, realised a capital profit of £30 million. Caledonia also sold its warrants in the English & Scottish Investors trust for £9 million.

Earnings per share, after adjustment for the disposals, slipped to 15.5p from 17.9p in the same period last year. Caledonia will still pay an increased interim dividend of 7.0p (6.5p) on January 14.

Northern Electric suffers charges

NORTHERN ELECTRIC, the regional electricity company that is owned by America's CalEnergy, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £40.7 million from a restated £57.5 million in the six months to September 30. The results were adversely affected by costs of £15 million linked to the introduction of competition in the gas and electricity markets and a restructuring charge of £3 million. Interest charges were also higher as a result of the £118 million payment in December 1997, the first instalment of the windfall tax levied on utilities. The final instalment is due in the second half of this year.

Northern's turnover in the first half rose to £480.4 million from a restated £427.1 million. Gregory Abel, the president and chief operating officer, said that although one-off costs had been incurred to strengthen the company's market position, the underlying trading performance had improved "significantly" over the previous year.

LMS pegs payout

LONDON MERCHANT SECURITIES, the property and venture capital investor, announced an 11.9 per cent rise in operating profits to £16.7 million for the six months to September 30. Pre-tax profit was £35.1 million, boosted by the £18.8 million sale of an investment in Six Flags Entertainment Corporation. Interim pre-tax profits of £69 million last time also benefited from a large exceptional sale. Earnings were 5.16p a share before capital items, against 5.1p, and 10.84p in total (£8.29p). The dividend stands at 0.9p. LMS investments suffered because of falls in the share prices of First Leisure and Weatherford International.

CPL disappoints

SHARES OF CPL Aromas, the fragrance and flavours company, dropped 13p to 93p yesterday on the announcement of interim results that the chairman admitted were disappointing. David Hanks said the fragrance division had experienced difficulties, and that "trading conditions are likely to remain unsettled for the remainder of the year". CPL made a pre-tax profit of £900,000 in the six months to September 30, down from £1.4 million last time, on turnover that was unchanged at £17.9 million. Earnings fell to 4.8p a share from 7.4p. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.9p a share.

DBS to consolidate

DBS MANAGEMENT, the business services group that includes the UK's largest network of independent financial advisers, yesterday said it was going to be a year of consolidation as it reported that pre-tax profit, before exceptional costs, had fallen to £4.2 million (£4.9 million) for the six months to September 30. The company said: "Trading conditions have been somewhat more difficult than anticipated." Turnover increased 7 per cent to £77.5 million. Earnings per share were 6.3p (6.0p) and the company declared an interim dividend of 1.65p (1.4p).

Latchways advances

LATCHWAYS, the supplier of safety equipment, raised interim pre-tax profits to £1.1 million from £400,000 in the six months to September 30. Turnover increased to £3.2 million from £2.1 million. The company has installed safety equipment at the Millennium Dome in London and on the Sydney Harbour bridge. Earnings were 7.23p a share, compared with 3.17p, and there is a maiden interim dividend of 2.5p a share. The shares, which floated on the stock market last year, rose 5p to 295p yesterday.

Symonds warning

SYMONDS, the electronics manufacturer, announced yesterday that it had so far overcome "a number of commercial challenges" this year, but said that difficulties would continue. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 were £2.2 million, compared with a loss of £84,000 caused by exceptional charges last time, on turnover of £23.8 million (£20.5 million). Earnings were 2.2p a share (loss of 0.5p) and an unchanged dividend of 0.6p was declared. Rod Ackrill, the chairman, said market conditions were likely to remain difficult.

Dawson rises by 12%

DAWSON HOLDINGS, the newspaper and magazine wholesaler that moved to a full listing on the stock exchange last June, reported pre-tax profit up 12 per cent at £12.8 million, before exceptional costs, for the year to September 30. The company said it had successfully integrated the UK wholesale interests of Johnsons News Group, which it bought in January for £32 million. The acquisition lifted turnover by 24 per cent to £738 million. Earnings per share were 13.3p (10.9p) and a final dividend of 3.1p makes the total for the year 10.3p, up 10.4 per cent.

Syltone ahead 36%

SYLTONE, the transport engineering group, said it expected steady growth over the second half as it reported pre-tax profits up 36 per cent at £2.72 million for the six months to September 30. However, the company said there were signs in the UK that forward order books were being affected by the overall business climate. Turnover was up 15 per cent at £45.26 million. Earnings per share were 0.61p (5.13p) and the interim dividend is 2.25p (2.1p). The results included a first full contribution from Permco, the tank truck equipment maker.

Comino boosts profits

COMINO, a supplier of software-based business solutions, yesterday reported profit up from £830,000 to £1.27 million for the six months to September 30. Turnover was £8.72 million, up from £5.03 million. Earnings per share were 7.24p (5.3p) and the company's maiden interim dividend is 1.25p. Comino said that in addition to "solid organic growth", the results reflected acquisitions made during the course of last year. It added that growth was "not dependent on any aspect of millennium business".

HOLMESDALE BUILDING SOCIETY			
NEW RATES FROM 1ST DECEMBER 1998			
NEW MEMBERS MUST RESIDE IN SUSSEX AND INVEST & MAINTAIN A MINIMUM BALANCE OF £1,500			
	GROSS GROSS	GROSS GROSS	GROSS GROSS
	"CAR"	"CAR"	"CAR"
SPECIAL SAVINGS			
£100,000 or more	7.45	7.32	
£75,000 or more	7.20	7.07	
£50,000 or more	6.95	6.82	
£25,000 or more	6.70	6.57	
£10,000 or more	6.45	6.32	
£5,000 or more	6.20	6.07	
£2,500 or more	6.00	5.87	
£1,000 or more	5.75	5.62	
£500 or more	5.50	5.37	
OVERSEAS RESIDENTS (CHARITIES A/C CLOSED)			
£25,000 or more	6.75	6.62	
£10,000 or more	6.45	6.32	
£5,000 or more	6.20	6.07	
£2,500 or more	6.00	5.87	
£1,000 or more	5.75	5.62	
£500 or more	5.50	5.37	
MONTHLY INCOME			
£25,000 or more	6.25	6.08	
£10,000 or more	5.75	5.58	
£5,000 or more	5.25	5.08	
£2,500 or more	5.00	4.83	
£1,000 or more	4.75	4.58	
£500 or more	4.50	4.33	
SHARE ACCOUNTS (Immediate Withdrawals up to £20,000)			
£25,000 or more	6.15	6.08	
£10,000 or more	5.75	5.62	
£5,000 or more	5.50	5.37	
£2,500 or more	5.25	5.08	
£1,000 or more	5.00	4.83	
TERMS			
£500 Minimum	7.45	7.32	

*CAR = Compounded Annual Rate

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CHANGING TIMES

THE TIMES FRIDAY

Allianz set to achieve record profits

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

ALLIANZ, Europe's largest insurance group, said it was on track to reach record profits and achieve this year's double-digit growth in the insurance market. The company's first half results showed a 20% increase in profits, driven by a 10% rise in premium income and a 10% increase in investment income. The company's first half results also showed a 10% increase in the number of new policyholders, a 10% increase in the number of new contracts, and a 10% increase in the number of new claims. The company's first half results also showed a 10% increase in the number of new policyholders, a 10% increase in the number of new contracts, and a 10% increase in the number of new claims.

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AGF contributed 10% to the group's first half results, with

ern Electric s charges

Electricity companies suffered a fall in profits last year, but the introduction of new charges and a revised tariff structure in December 1997 has helped to improve the situation. The companies' profits rose by 18.7 per cent to £1,100.4 million in 1997, compared with £926.8 million in 1996. The rise was due to a combination of factors, including a 10 per cent increase in the price of electricity, a 5 per cent increase in the price of gas, and a 10 per cent increase in the price of coal. The companies' profits are expected to rise further in 1998, as a result of the new charges and tariff structure.

egs payout

The property and insurance companies have paid out a total of £1.1 billion in claims for the first nine months of 1998. This is a significant increase on the £850 million paid out in the same period last year. The increase is due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the number of claims, a rise in the value of claims, and a rise in the cost of claims. The companies' profits are expected to be affected by the increase in payouts.

sappoints

The insurance companies have appointed a new chairman, Sir George Russell, to replace Sir John Gifford. Sir George Russell has been with the company for 15 years and has been responsible for its success in recent years. He is expected to continue to lead the company in the future.

consolidate

The insurance companies are expected to consolidate their operations in the future. This is due to the increasing competition in the market and the need to reduce costs. The companies are expected to merge their operations and to focus on their core business.

ays advances

The insurance companies have made advances in their operations. They have introduced new products and services, and they have improved their customer service. They are also expected to make further advances in the future.

ds warning

The insurance companies are warning of a possible drop in the value of small companies. This is due to the increasing competition in the market and the need to reduce costs. The companies are expected to make further advances in the future.

n rises by 12%

The value of small companies has risen by 12 per cent in the last year. This is due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the number of companies, a rise in the value of companies, and a rise in the cost of companies. The companies' profits are expected to rise further in the future.

ahead 36%

The value of small companies is ahead by 36 per cent in the last year. This is due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the number of companies, a rise in the value of companies, and a rise in the cost of companies. The companies' profits are expected to rise further in the future.

boosts profits

The value of small companies has boosted profits in the last year. This is due to a combination of factors, including a rise in the number of companies, a rise in the value of companies, and a rise in the cost of companies. The companies' profits are expected to rise further in the future.

Allianz set to achieve record profits

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN FRANKFURT

ALLIANZ, Europe's largest insurance group, said it was on track to reach record profits and sales this year despite turbulent financial markets and spectacular natural disasters that raised claims costs. The German company expects double-digit profits growth this year, with worldwide premium income reaching DM106 billion (£37.5 million), a 24 per cent increase over 1997. In 1997 Allianz earned a net profit of DM2.7 billion on premium income of DM85.6 billion.

In the first nine months of 1998 premium income rose by 18.7 per cent to DM76 billion, largely due to the consolidation of AGF, the French insurer taken over earlier this year. AGF contributed DM12 billion more of premium income to the nine-month results and is expected to boost full 1998 premium income by DM18 billion.

Property and casualty insurance accounted for DM44.9 billion of the nine-month figure, while life and health insurance generated the rest. The results were in line with expectations and the market showed little reaction to the announcement, with Allianz shares up 2.18 per cent to DM606.45, mirroring a 2.1 per cent rise in the blue-chip Dax index.

Analysts, who had been expecting Allianz to meet its own earnings and premium income goals, said the group now faced little risk of missing the target after financial markets recovered from their early October lull.

"Overall claims experienced a slight upward trend caused by extraordinary natural events such as the ice storm in Canada and Hurricane Georges," Allianz said, adding that industrial insurance claims in Germany contributed to the increase.



Soup Works, a take-away chain that claims to provide "a lunchtime alternative with the strength to challenge the supremacy of the sandwich", opens its first restaurant in D'Arbury Street, Soho, next Monday. The Ofex-listed company, whose managing director is restaurateur Bruce Isaacs, above, plans to set up the chain of "fast soup" outlets across London, which will offer a delivery service that will take orders via the Internet.

Yorkshire fears water price cuts will reduce payouts

By ADAM JONES

YORKSHIRE WATER yesterday gave warning that its dividend growth will be held back by price cuts proposed by its regulator, Ofwat.

Although Yorkshire is confident that it can increase the annual payment to shareholders by 6 to 8 per cent above inflation until 2000, it admits that dividend growth will slow

after that whatever form the pricing review finally takes. Ofwat has suggested a 15 to 20 per cent cut in average household bills for Yorkshire's customers in 2000. Like other water supply companies, Yorkshire is arguing that the regulator has underestimated what it will have to pay to finance its investment programme.

Kevin Bond, chief executive, said Yorkshire would continue

to negotiate quietly with Ofwat. "The way to tackle this is not through megaphone diplomacy," he said. "We think that what the regulator has put forward is extremely challenging. We would want clarification on a number of issues."

Customers did not want a big cut in bills followed by big rises in later years, he said.

Faced with Ofwat's tough stance, Yorkshire said yesterday that it wants to draw 50

per cent of revenue and about 15 per cent of profits from non-regulated businesses, such as recycling and rubbish collection, by 2005.

The group was reporting pre-tax profits of £118 million for the first six months of the year, up from interim profits of £115.7 million last year. Turnover rose from £322.5 million to £340.4 million; 14.1 per

cent of this came from unregulated activities, down from 14.6 per cent in the 1997 first half, but organic and acquisitive growth is still filtering in. Yorkshire merged its dry and liquid waste management operations with those of Waste Recycling Group in August. The integration of the two businesses will continue in the second half. Yorkshire has also bought 3C Waste, a Cheshire waste disposal company.

Mr Bond said that, despite the desire of most water utilities to buy environmental management companies, competition for new acquisitions is not too restrictive. "It's a huge marketplace," he said.

He said that Yorkshire sometimes came up against one or two other water companies when it was looking to buy a waste management company or a similar enterprise.

Earnings per share were 30.2p, up from a loss of 8.3p last year, when the windfall tax was paid. An interim dividend of 14.7p (13.2p) per share will be paid on April 6, 1999.

Pennon sets sights on expansion

PENNON, the water supply and waste management group formerly known as South West Water, is hungry for acquisitions to reduce its vulnerability to tough regulatory reviews (Adam Jones writes).

Ken Hill, finance director, refused to say how much was earmarked for deals but said Pennon was prepared to see gearing rise to 100 per cent. At the end of this year, it is likely to be about 75 per cent.

Pennon wants non-regulated businesses to account for 50 per cent of turnover within the next two or three years. Through its Haul Waste subsidiary, Pennon is already the biggest operator of landfill sites in the UK.

In the interim results published yesterday, 38 per cent of the £220.2 million group turnover came from unregulated sources, despite the Asian financial crisis affecting its instru-

mentation business, whose products include testing equipment for soil and concrete.

Pre-tax profits for the first half of the year were £71.5 million, up from £68 million. However, were it not for a £5 million exceptional credit resulting from settlement of a waste management legal claim, the year-on-year comparison would have shown a fall.

Profits from the core South

West Water business fell nearly £5 million after it absorbed an increased interest charge. South West has been threatened with a price cut of 15-20 per cent in 2000 by Ofwat, the regulator, which issued its Prospects for Prices consultation document recently.

Interim earnings per share fell from 64p to 61.3p before exceptional. An interim dividend of 14.7p (13.2p) per share will be paid on April 6, 1999.

Drop in value of small companies knocks 3i

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

THE falling value of small companies has affected 3i, Britain's leading venture and development capital firm. The company's net asset value fell 9 per cent to 525p a share in the six months to September 30.

However, Sir George Russell, chairman, said the downward movement had knocked 3i off the average worth of small unquoted companies and presented 3i with improved investment opportunities. He also said that 3i had recognised the previous high valuations by crystallising investments and holding back from making new ones.

Shares in 3i were the best performing of the top 100 companies yesterday, rising more than 10 per cent to 590p. The falling market value of small company shares had an adverse impact on 3i's net asset value because the company values its portfolio, which comprises 3,000 different companies, with reference to the price/earnings multiple of publicly listed small company shares.

The multiple used at the end of September, the close of 3i's interim accounting period, was eight times. In March it was 30 per cent higher at 11.3 times.

However, 3i said that the negative return on its invest-

ments of 9 per cent compared favourably with the 15 per cent fall in the FTSE All-share index and a 24 per cent decline in the FTSE Small Cap index. The Small Cap index measures the share price performance of most companies outside the top 350.

The profits before tax — made up of interest and dividend income, and fund management fees — rose 19 per cent to £84.6 million.

The company also pub-

lished results of a quarterly survey which showed business confidence continuing at a low ebb. It surveys managers of companies in which it invests on a quarterly basis. In June the poll showed a sharp slump and the latest figure showed it to have worsened. But the rate of decline was slower, prompting 3i to suggest that the fall-off was bottoming out.

Tempos, page 32



Sir George Russell said 3i had crystallised investments

Devro hit by fresh warning

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES of Devro fell sharply yesterday after the sausage casings company issued another price warning.

The company said underlying pre-tax profits were now likely to be about £40 million in the current year, down from £58 million in the previous 12 months. Analysts' forecasts, downgraded in the summer after the first warning, had expected profits of about £53 million. The shares, which traded at 545p in May, fell 36p to 199p yesterday.

Devro blamed economic difficulties in Eastern Europe, particularly Russia, although the impact was now spreading to other markets. It is cutting back production of cellulose casings at Danville in the US and Lommel in Belgium.

US profits are now expected to be £5 million below the September estimates, with European profits affected to a similar degree. The company also expects to increase inventory and had debt provisions by about £2 million.

Devro has already begun to cut costs and will make a £4 million charge against redundancies. Restructuring is expected to yield annual savings of up to £7 million from 2000. The group expects to maintain the total dividend at 9.5p.

Omnicom set to acquire AMV

By JASON NISSE

OMNICON, the US marketing services company, yesterday said it is in talks to buy Abbott Mead Vickers, London's most successful advertising agency in which Omnicon already has a 27 per cent stake.

The deal is likely to value AMV shares at between 425p and 450p, compared with a price that rose 48p to 408p yesterday. This would place a price tag of up to £340 million on AMV and give a bonus of at least £100,000 each for up to 70 AMV staff.

AMV's directors, led by Peter Mead, the chairman, are also likely to pick up about £12 million from the takeover. On top of this there are outstanding earn out payments of nearly £50 million ow-

ing on a series of acquisitions made by AMV in the past couple of years, largely of design and public relations firms.

The move is seen as further strengthening Omnicon's dominance of the UK marketing services market. Earlier this year it paid £150 million for GGT Group, a deal which left it with two advertising networks in the UK — TWBA Simmons Palmer and BMP Needham. After the deal AMV will be known as BBDO Abbott Mead Vickers, formalising a link which was first forged in 1992 when Omnicon bought its stake in AMV.

Omnicon has said it has no problems running parallel advertising networks without clients worrying about conflicts of interest among the different advertising agencies.

The deal comes at an interesting time for AMV, which is known in the industry for its success with BT's "It's good to talk" campaign.

Two years ago it became the largest agency in London, overtaking J Walter Thompson, where Mr Mead started his career, and Saatchi & Saatchi.

However, in the summer David Abbott, one of the founders of the company, announced his retirement and the group's shares were affected by worries about future earnings from advertising and fell to a low of 248p.

Despite this, the agency is still seen by rivals as one of the most creative houses in London.

Its client list includes Volvo, the RSPCA, J Sainsbury, Mars and Guinness.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

SAVE £4 ON THE TIMES 100 GREATEST CRICKETERS

During the summer of 1997, *The Times* magazine published John Woodcock's personal selection of the hundred greatest cricketers in the history of the game, all of whom he had placed in ranking order. Now reproduced as a book, *The Times One Hundred Greatest Cricketers* expands upon the initial selection featuring:

- a foreword by Mike Brearley the former England captain
- an introduction explaining the thinking behind the choices
- career facts and figures on each of the players
- illustrations of each of the featured cricketers

Over the last fifty years, John Woodcock has seen and written about all the great cricketers and forged many firm friendships among them. He has covered more than 400 test matches for *The Times*. His animated and wonderfully illuminating profiles extend across more than two centuries, beginning with John Small, the maker of bat and ball who 'found out cricket' on Broad-Halfpenny Down in the 1760s and 1770s, and incorporating several of the finest players of today.

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CHANGING TIMES

REF INFORMATION SERVICE

Fund	Net Assets	Assets	Liabilities	Equity	Income	Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD.								
Prudential Growth Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Income Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Bond Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Equity Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential International Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Real Estate Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Dividend Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Short-Term Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Long-Term Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Global Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Emerging Markets Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Energy Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Technology Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Healthcare Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Financial Services Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Consumer Goods Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Industrial Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Transportation Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Communications Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Media Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Entertainment Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Retail Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Food & Beverage Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Pharmaceuticals Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Biotechnology Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Aerospace & Defense Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Space & Satellite Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
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Prudential Entertainment Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
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Prudential Media & Entertainment Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Consumer Services Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Prudential Healthcare Services Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	

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FRIDAY

VERAGES

REST

ALS

ENGINE

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998	Low Company	Price	Vol	PE	1998	Low Company	Price	Vol	PE
201	46	Group	47	3	214	34	Bank	79	4
202	33	Carroll	160	18	215	430	Bank	126	1
203	240	Wall	160	18	216	430	Bank	126	1
204	119	16	18	34	217	430	Bank	126	1
205	119	16	18	34	218	430	Bank	126	1
206	119	16	18	34	219	430	Bank	126	1
207	119	16	18	34	220	430	Bank	126	1
208	119	16	18	34	221	430	Bank	126	1
209	119	16	18	34	222	430	Bank	126	1
210	119	16	18	34	223	430	Bank	126	1
211	119	16	18	34	224	430	Bank	126	1
212	119	16	18	34	225	430	Bank	126	1
213	119	16	18	34	226	430	Bank	126	1
214	119	16	18	34	227	430	Bank	126	1
215	119	16	18	34	228	430	Bank	126	1
216	119	16	18	34	229	430	Bank	126	1
217	119	16	18	34	230	430	Bank	126	1
218	119	16	18	34	231	430	Bank	126	1
219	119	16	18	34	232	430	Bank	126	1
220	119	16	18	34	233	430	Bank	126	1
221	119	16	18	34	234	430	Bank	126	1
222	119	16	18	34	235	430	Bank	126	1
223	119	16	18	34	236	430	Bank	126	1
224	119	16	18	34	237	430	Bank	126	1
225	119	16	18	34	238	430	Bank	126	1
226	119	16	18	34	239	430	Bank	126	1
227	119	16	18	34	240	430	Bank	126	1
228	119	16	18	34	241	430	Bank	126	1
229	119	16	18	34	242	430	Bank	126	1
230	119	16	18	34	243	430	Bank	126	1
231	119	16	18	34	244	430	Bank	126	1
232	119	16	18	34	245	430	Bank	126	1
233	119	16	18	34	246	430	Bank	126	1
234	119	16	18	34	247	430	Bank	126	1
235	119	16	18	34	248	430	Bank	126	1
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It sometimes takes a blinking idiot to point out the blind-leading-the-blind obvious. Today I cast myself (or typecast myself, as my colleagues would say) in that role. But first, the story so far. The Government, through its poodles and putting pressure on subsidised arts organisations to be more "accessible", to find new audiences and to rid themselves of their "middle-class, middle-aged" image.

That's not just an ideological obsession, of course: it's also pure panic. Nearly 2,000 lottery projects will soon open — an investment of billions of pounds by the United Kingdom of Great Britain. If those new audiences aren't found will swiftly become 2,000 mausoleums, and the arts sector will collapse under the weight of its own vainglorious ambitions.

Hence the urgent interest in "accessibility". Everyone is desperately seeking the magic key that opens the hearts and minds of millions to the joys of late Schoenberg and early Strindberg. The hills are alive

Forget outreach, what about some teachers?

with the sound of voucher schemes and outreach initiatives and marketing wheezes.

I don't want to knock this sudden missionary enthusiasm. One only wishes that it had happened a little earlier in the 60-year history of taxpayer-funded arts in Britain.

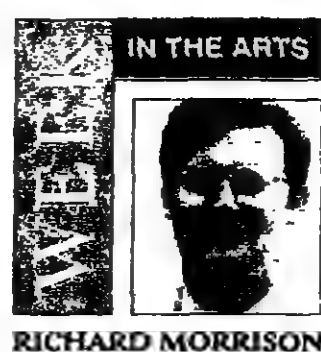
But — and this is the "stating the obvious" bit — if you want to make fine wine, you need fine grapes. And if you want to create a cultured nation, you first create cultured children. You grasp my drift. The arts will never find those "new audiences" while this Government, like its predecessor, persists in encouraging state schools to sideline the arts into invisibility.

More evidence of that sorry state, if more were needed, comes this week in *The Disappearing Arts?*, a survey by Rick Rogers for the Royal Society of Arts. Its observations are horrifying. The recruitment of music teachers for second-

ary schools is predicted to fall 23 per cent below target this year. Many teacher-training institutions are actually abandoning specialist training in music and art.

The changes in the mandatory primary school curriculum, relegating music, dance, drama and art in favour of yet more slogging on spelling and arithmetic, has persuaded some schools to drop music altogether and many more to cut back on the time allocated to such "luxuries". Not surprisingly, demand among teachers for in-service training in the arts has dropped by 85 per cent. Many of these courses have consequently been dropped in the past year.

And so it goes on. "Too narrow a focus in the teaching of primary school children is squeezing the arts out of the curriculum," says the RSA, and suggests many excellent remedies — none of which will be taken up, if I know anything



RICHARD MORRISON

about the British way of life. Add all this to the damage inflicted by the widespread withdrawal of peripatetic instrumental teaching and you have a dismal picture.

Yes, many of Britain's galleries and performing companies are doing fantastic educational work. But that can only be an icing on the

cake, and then only for a small percentage of children. It can't replace proper classroom teaching.

If this cultural disaster was happening uniformly across Britain it would still be ghastly, but at least it would be fair dinkums all round. But it isn't. What makes this state of affairs rather obscene is the cultural apartheid it perpetuates. On the one hand are the private schools and those nice, affluent state schools to which Prime Ministers and influential journalists send their kids. They, of course, have purpose-built theatres and well-staffed music departments and all the other trappings of a civilised, well-rounded education.

On the other hand, what? Thousands of state schools with no cash, no culture and no teaching incentive except to grind the three Rs into their little charges so that the school can climb a few places up some accursed league table. What

sort of education is that? Children probably got more nourishment for the soul and food for the imagination in Stalin's Soviet Union.

Do we really expect that, having denied children a taste of the arts in their formative years, we can lure them into the theatre, concert hall and opera house when they have to pay serious money? If we do, we are mad. You reap what you sow in education, as in life.

Tony Blair sees a pressing need to put an Internet terminal in every school, but not a music teacher. When his Government boasts about supporting the serious arts, would somebody remind him of that small but fatal misjudgment?

Risible spectacle of the week? That accolade must go to all those supposedly wild and free-thinking playwrights publicly wrestling with their consciences at the prospect of their be-

loved Royal Court Theatre being renamed the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre in order to receive yet another seven-figure handout.

It seems that the words "royal court", which the rest of us consider a little redundant of Marie Antoinette and powdered tommen, in fact have a strangely radical ring in Luvvieland — a quality that would be entirely dissipated by adding the word Jerwood. So a charitable foundation proffering £3 million (to get the pampered Royal Court out of a hole entirely of its own making) may be told to get stuffed. Good grief. Sometimes luvvies deserve every scrap of contempt that the tabloids can fling.

I suggest that the Jerwood Foundation presents its £3 million to the beleaguered Sir Peter Hall instead — or Sir Jerwood Hall, as he will subsequently be known. Without a penny of state subsidy his company has done wonders for London's theatre life. It actually deserves the dole. As for the Royal Court, well, it has long been home to rebels without a cause. Now it seems to be run by rebels without a clue.

Master of sinew and muscle

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork reveals in the vigorous work of the Italian painter Luca Signorelli

To see Luca Signorelli at his impassioned zenith, a visit to Orvieto is essential. There, in one of Italy's most dramatic hilltop cities, he painted an astounding fresco cycle for the cathedral. The commission took five years, from 1499 to 1504, covering the walls of the Cappella Nova where Fra Angelico had painted the ceiling 50 years before. But by the time Signorelli had completed it, Angelico's gentle, statuesque piety had given way to an invigorating alternative. For Signorelli marked the advent of a new century with a radical, fiercely inventive vision, whose dynamism would profoundly influence Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel decorations for decades to come.

Many of the sinewy figures galvanising the Cappella Nova have been seized by an apocalyptic frenzy. They are the despairing victims of *The End of the World*, and their eloquence testifies to Signorelli's command of the energetic make nude in *extremis*. By bringing together his work in British collections alone, the National Gallery's exhibition cannot hope to convey the full exhilaration of a pilgrimage to Orvieto. But an accompanying film gives a notion of the frescoes' visceral impact, and several of his drawings reveal the same command of writhing, muscular form. One celebrated black chalk study, supposedly showing the struggle between Hercules and Antaeus, may even have originated in preparations for the Cappella Nova's *The Torments of the Damned*. The drawing's air of ferocious spontaneity is underpinned by steely calculation, contrasting the anguish of one figure with the lethal resolve of his conqueror.

The only painting in the National Gallery survey to make a male nude its central focus is an early work, part of an altarpiece commissioned by the wealthy Bichi family in Siena. It shows a lamentation over the dead Christ. The martyred

corpse slumped on the earth is conspicuously sensual. He recalls the languorous, detumescent man in Botticelli's stylised painting of Mars and Venus, but his limp body is surrounded by the forms of grief-maddened women. Although this predella panel is modest in size, the figures seem to burst from its confines. Their exclamatory emotion belongs to a far larger image, and Signorelli demonstrated his command of a monumental surface in a grand altarpiece two years later.

Painted for the oratory of a lay confraternity in Volterra, it depicts *The Circumcision*. Signorelli had been a pupil of Piero della Francesca, from whom he must have gained his sophisticated grasp of pictorial space. And he leads our eyes deep into the scene along a startlingly multi-coloured marble floor.

The sense of recession is heightened by the robed woman on the right, arrested in the act of walking barefoot towards the Christ child. Her raised left heel seems to respond to the tension enlivening the group beyond. Enhanced by the almost metallic definition of draperies, this suspenseful mood impels most of the figures to stare down at the naked infant.

He is handled in a softer style by the Sienese artist "Il Sodoma" who was asked to repaint the child in the late 1530s. Nobody knows why, but technical examination by the National Gallery has disclosed that Signorelli originally intended the infant to adopt a different pose. He was

meant to lean away from the man administering the circumcision. Then the pose was changed to a more relaxed and welcoming alternative. Sodoma's subsequent reworking gives him a sweetness smoother than anything the tough-minded Signorelli would have approved.

He was the ideal artist to portray Niccolò Vitelli, the brutal mercenary commander who bullied his way to become the Pope's representative in Città di Castello. Signorelli painted him posthumously in the 1490s, as a white-haired yet menacing presence. He looks cruel enough to eliminate any opposition to his ruthless ascendancy.

Around the same time, though, Signorelli showed the more tender side of his imagination in a large *Adoration of the Shepherds*, painted for a Città di Castello church. Recent cleaning has revealed an extra angel, who now joins the adoring group gathered so tightly around Virgin and offspring. Covered up by a 19th-century restorer, the angel certainly makes the composition look more congested.

Signorelli must have wanted to convey fervency, but his design lacks the clarity that distinguishes *The Circumcision*. He reserves his most inventive powers for the rocks surging fantastically above the group, and for the plants observed with a limpid delicacy inspired, perhaps, by Hugo van der Goes's great Portinari altarpiece in Florence.

Extensive damage has made Signorelli's frescoes in the so-called camera bella at

Siena impossible to assess. Two of them now belong to the National Gallery, and their initial fame suggests that they were once consummate enough to gratify the ruler who commissioned them: Pandolfo Petrucci. Now, however, their faded figures lack the vitality of Signorelli's finest work. He travelled to Rome in 1513, hoping for patronage from the new Pope. But Leo X was too enamoured of Michelangelo and Raphael. He even ordered the destruction of an earlier Signorelli fresco, so that Raphael could paint on the same wall.

Such was the audacity with which the High Renaissance was now developing that senior artists often found themselves dismissed as irredeemably old-fashioned. True in his sixties, Signorelli was consigned to oblivion by the Vatican. Michelangelo had to lend him money, and he then turned back to his provincial home town of Cortona.

He obtained commissions to support his old age, but a late altarpiece shows just how dull the elderly Signorelli had become. Painted in 1515 for a French doctor, in return for "good and free [medical] services that he had received and would receive in the future", it is a dutiful exercise. Everyone assembled on its surface looks bored — even the semi-naked Saint Sebastian, whose athletic, arrow-pierced body would once have given Signorelli plenty of stimulus. Over-reliant now on assistants, he seems more alive in depicting the fertile landscape stretching towards a lake fringed by castellated buildings and misty hills.

Otherwise, though, this dogged painting remains a sad affair. Unlike Michelangelo, the ageing Signorelli was unable to renew himself with the violent, aspiring boldness he commanded in his prime.

● Signorelli at the National Gallery (0171-839 3321) until Jan 31



Luca Signorelli's *The Circumcision*: the artist probably gained his grasp of pictorial space from Piero della Francesca

Timeless take on perversion

Since I have found it a good rule always to mistrust a production that begins with a man in a string vest on a plain-looking ladder, especially if the ladder is isolated on a big, brick-lined stage and the man and his vest are perched below a single spotlight, my spirits slumped a bit at the opening of Mick Gordon's revival of Oscar Wilde's tragedy. Wasn't the very simplicity ostentatious, the



sparseness pretentious, given the opulence of the words and the wilful decadence of the plot, not to mention stage directions that demand moons, big black clouds and slaves with torches?

As it turned out, no, not at all. Strangeness need not, after all, consist of exotic decor and a cast list featuring innumerable Nubians and Nazarenes. Enough to pare down Lord Alfred Douglas's translation of Wilde's original French, present us with a few good, intense actors in slightly eccentric modern dress in and leave our imaginations to fill in the gaps. That is Gordon's way, and, on the whole, it works.

It works especially well when Tristan Sturrock's Jokanaan, or John the Baptist, is raging up into a mike that makes the theatre echo with his anguish, or when Emily Woof's Salomé summons him from his ladder, a pale figure whose glinting, dark-rimmed eyes



Emily Woof and Greg Hicks in a stylised revival of Wilde's tragedy

might have come from Waco or Jonestown. It works when Greg Hicks's Herod is padding about in his long, black coat, blending authority with insecurity, or palpitating with sensuality, or lurching with sickened dismay as Salomé reveals her exorbitant dance-fee.

The approach is stylised and yet often surprisingly immediate. Several times I noted almost comic banalities of speech that had surely been inserted by Gordon — "come, Salomé, be reasonable. I've never been hard to you" — only to find on checking that they were Bosie's own. As a result, *Salomé* emerges, not as some musky epic from the remote biblical jungles, but as an intimate tale of perverse drives and irresistible desires within a family which no doubt has its analogues in our own era.

Sometimes it all goes too far. When Woof was spiralling about in her white trouser suit, I felt that the *Dance of the Seven Veils* was in danger of becoming an attempt by a rather feeble tennis professional to limber up for the next day's match. Her Salomé lacks fierceness; and yet one believes in this slim, mocking girl's selfishness and her emotional dilettantism and her morbid fascination with the strange and different. Add Veronica Quilligan as a podgy, sneering Herodias, and you have a production that justifies Gordon's decision to export examples of his work from his home theatre, the Gate, to the warehouse of Riverside Studios. It deserves the larger audience he wants.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

SOHO Theatre Company's four-week stay here (top London's Caledonian Road and turn left) ends with an exceptionally good play, 90 minutes of increasingly enthralling display of feelings between a 46-year-old spinster of Irish descent and an exile from Falkirk of about the same age.

Terms of Abuse, Jessica Townsend's first play, received mixed reviews for its attempt to probe the psychology of a couple resembling Fred and Rosemary West, a task requiring the skills of Shakespeare or Sophocles. Here we have Noreen (Gabrielle Reidy), patiently looking after her crotchety granny (Bridget Turner) while longing for something she knows not what, and Fulton (John Stahl), mooching through the cemetery on his daily journeys between the Cross Keys and the Pig & Peasant. Jonathan Fensom's design is no more than a bath, washbasin and

Middle-aged chemistry thrills

toilet, clumped together in the middle of the stage, ringed with a scattering of autumn leaves, and when Noreen rushes on at the start of the play, ups her skirt, downs her tights and sits on the loo — cue for the sound of falling water — I feared the worst for the play that would follow.

What immediately follows is

Granny, tottering along to discover what keeps her away from the house for hours at a time. It is a longing for silence, we discover, and this need, far more insistent than a wish to have a bit of time to herself, arches over the play and returns at the end, when her life has been changed by a man who cannot disguise his astonishment that such a plain, religious, peculiar woman has similarly changed his. Reidy's pink, round face, a stranger to make-up, looks as if tears (of grief? wonder?) are never far away. It is lovely to watch the way her hands move, and Stahl's

too; revealing hesitation, desire, and all the conflicts between *ought* and *maybe might*. An hilarious yet entirely serious scene in a confessional with Father O'Ryan (Gary Liburn) points her dilemma: might fornication in a cemetery be granted God's approval? Father doesn't think so at all, not at all, but surely Noreen (the saint) is on the side of the angels?

Townsend's ear is attuned to the tricky tenderness existing between Noreen and her piping Granny, but even more remarkable is her understanding of the ways in which the good-hearted Scottish boxer finds himself so unexpectedly afflicted. Directed by Polly Teale with zealous care for the significance of glance and gesture, *Angels and Saints* and its players fuse together in a thrilling artistic chemistry.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Set on a collision course to nowhere

INSTEAD of programme notes, you are given a postcard that reads simply: "A head-on collision between two women who can't see that they are exactly the same."

The two women in question are Claire Dowie and Patsy Lily, who occupy what look like two restaurant tables about ten yards apart on the Drill Hall stage. The idea of them ramming into each other has a certain preposterous entertainment value, but this proves as misleading as the claim that they are alike. Which they're not. Lily is a fragrant, power-dressing yuppie. Dowie is a shifty, manly-looking 39-year-old in jeans and a brown leather jacket that is far too big.

slipping off her kimono and wringing on a black skirt and matching jacket.

Curiously, says Dowie, jiggling her knee. "Curiosity killed the cat," says Lily. "Better a cat than a bitch," says Dowie. And so it goes. A needling match rather than a boxing match in which the two women — former lovers, we discover — try to harpoon each other's feminist credentials and end up missing by miles.

With no context to speak of, this competition (to call it a power-struggle would be far too dramatic) about who has the upper hand feels half-baked at best. It seems to be years since they last met, such is their awkwardness and aggres-

cookers, they gradually make it clear that their adolescent affair was partly responsible for launching their lives and careers on wildly differing trajectories, and that their personal revolutions stem from teenage jealousies. Oh, and that they listened to records rather than each other.

Booish, scrappy and churlish to the end, Dowie's rebel without a plot wears her chips all too heavily on her slumped shoulders. Lily wears her jaded Thatcherite glamour like armour. If they did collide, it would presumably be Camden council which would have to pick up the mess.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

POP ALBUMS
Cartoon capers

ARTS

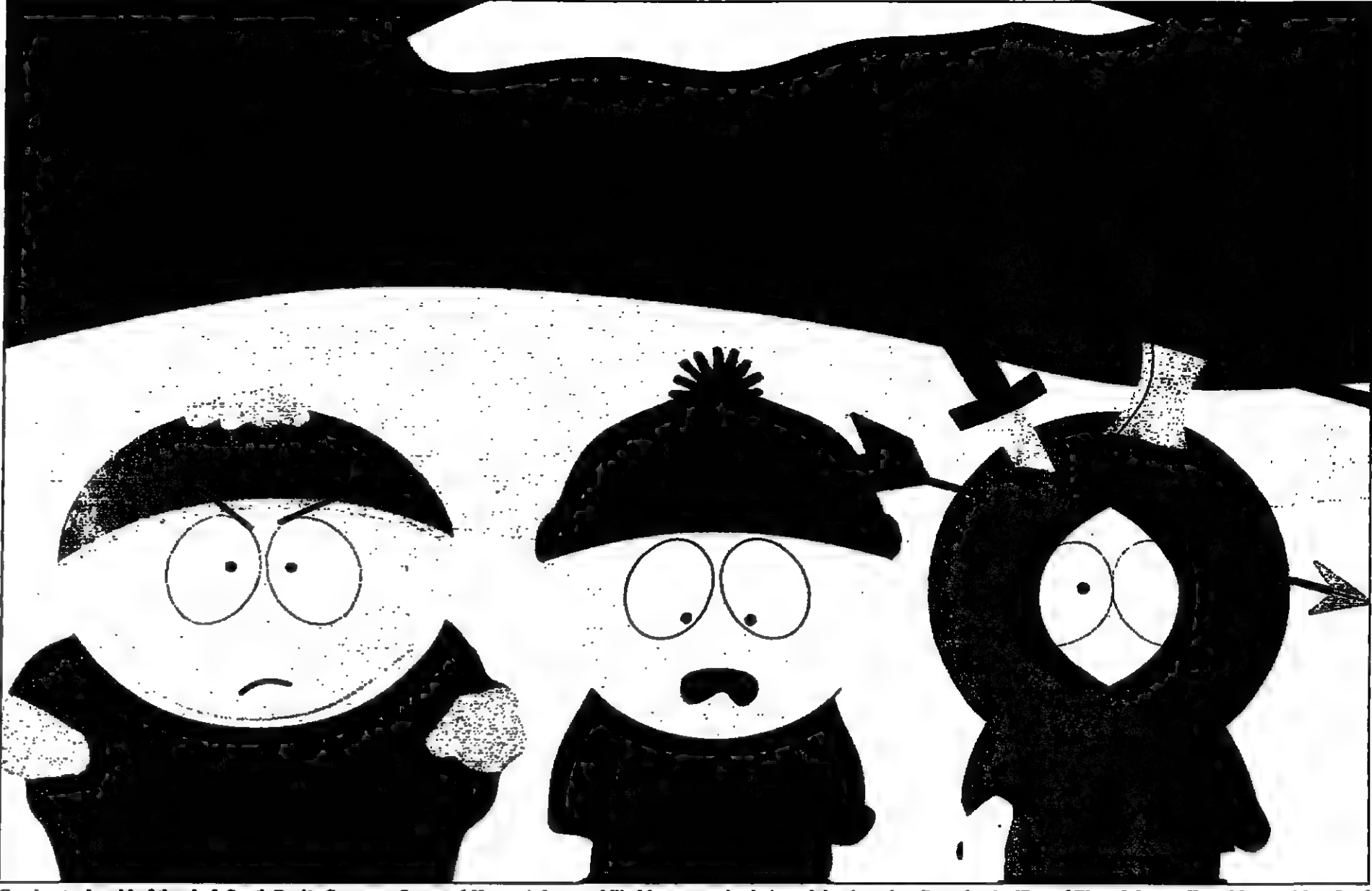
POP GIG
Happy Family

NEW POP ALBUMS: America's *South Park* cartoon may be cult TV viewing, but the joke wears terribly thin in rock'n'roll, says David Sinclair

Killing Kenny and the rest of us

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Chef Aid: The South Park Album (American/Columbia 491700 £14.49)
COMEDY may not be the new rock'n'roll, but the two have become increasingly cosy bedfellows in the years since Beavis and Butt-Head began lampooning the values and videos of the MTV generation. An audience has grown up (physically, anyway) for whom musical Year Zero was marked by the first Beastie Boys album, and it is this adolescent constituency, with its taste for heavy rock and rap music liberally laced with a brattish sense of humour, that has been successfully wooed by the crudely drawn characters and puerile in-jokes of the cult TV cartoon series *South Park*. Now comes *Chef Aid: The South Park Album*. Loosely structured as a "benefit concert" on behalf of the Chef character (played with laconic wit by Isaac Hayes), the album accommodates a diverse cast of performers ranging from superannuated heavy rocker Ozzy Osbourne to rap star du jour Wyclef Jean, along with a raft of dependably eccentric American groups including Primus, Ween and Devo.

Executive producer Rick Rubin has a finely tuned ear for this kind of thing, and manages to co-exist some surprisingly substantial performances from Elton John on *Wake Up*, Wendy, and an unholy alliance of Mase, Puff Daddy, Lil' Kim and System of a Down on a thundering rap-rock number called *Will They Die 4 You*. But the trouble with comedy albums is that they rarely stand up to repeated exposure, and this one is no exception. The silly-voiced versions of Bad Company's *Feel Like Makin' Love* and Styx's *Come Sail Away*, performed by characters from the show, are immediately irritating, while other jokey set pieces, such as *Kenny's Dead* (a retooled version of Curtis Mayfield's *Freddie's Dead*) and a duet between Chef and Meat Loaf on *Tonight Is Right For Love*, do not take much longer to pall. Chef's detailed recipe for *Chocolate Salty Balls* does have a rude vigour which is typical of the album. But frankly, it might make sense to stick them in your ears.



Coming to the aid of the chef: *South Park*'s Cartman, Stan and Kenny (who gets killed in most episodes) are joined on the album by the likes of Elton John, Puff Daddy and Meat Loaf

THE LANCE GAMBETT TRIO
Cocktail 2000 (Music For Leisure MFLCD03 £11.99)
WHILE outright comedy can be difficult to pull off in a pop environment, irony is not a problem. Operating in much the same vein as the Mike Flowers Pops, though sadly without the rug, the Lance Gambett Trio offers a selection of instrumental lounge-bar arrangements of 1950s hits by artists such as Billie Holiday, the Verve, the Spice

THE TAMPERER
Featuring Maya Fabulous (Pepper/5ive 053016 £13.49)
TAKE away an additional Klubbheads Klubb Mix of their No 1 hit *Feel It*, tacked on at the end, and the debut album by Italian DJ duo the Tamperer clocks in at just 32 minutes; a slender offering, although it seems longer. Like so much European disco music, *Fabulous* is a clever-

ly tweaked, off-the-moment product which relies heavily on old ideas. *Feel It* is based on a sample of the Jacksons' *Can You Feel It*, while *Get Up Get It On* borrows the horn riff from the Four Tops' *Reach Out (I'll Be There)*. The duo's own compositions are scarcely more original.

Typically, the music is set to a rigid disco beat so unyielding that it sounds more like a square-bashing drill than the sound track to a night on the tiles. The comely Maya then supplies a suitably thought-provoking slogan — "What's she going to look like with a chimney on her?" is her most successful so far — and *vivid*, another hit is in the bag.

Hastily assembled and rushed into the shops in time for the party season, *Fabulous* is a blatant smash and grab raid on the yule funds. They should have called themselves the Plunderer.

ROBYN HITCHCOCK
Storefront Hitchcock — *Music from the Jonathan Demme Picture* (Warner Bros 9362-46846 £15.99)
ALTHOUGH doomed forever to roam the cult hinterlands along with fellow English folk-rock eccentrics such as Roy Harper, Robyn Hitchcock still has the clout to play the Queen Elizabeth Hall next Monday and to get film director Jonathan Demme (*Silence of the Lambs*) to make a documentary about him. Recorded live in a New York shop window, and punctuated by rambling, surreal monologues, *Storefront Hitchcock* is the soundtrack to Demme's movie, and captures the former Soft Boy in full idiosyncratic flight. From the "jittery" histrionics of *Freeze* to a surprisingly tender version of Jimi Hendrix's *The Wind Cries Mary*, Hitchcock maintains a fitful momentum without ever disclosing what exactly he is on about.

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1	(1)	Ladies & Gentlemen — The Best of — George Michael (Epic)
2	(2)	I've Been Expecting You — Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
3	(3)	Talk on Corners — Corns (Atlantic)
4	(4)	The Best of 1980-1990 — U2 (Island)
5	(5)	Sheep Out — Stone (Jive)
6	(6)	One Night Only — Ilse Gies (Polydor)
7	(14)	Value of an Angel — Charlotte Church (Sony Classical)
8	(9)	The Best of — M People (M People)
9	(16)	Wish — Phil Collins (Verve)
10	(27)	Me So — Mariah Carey (Columbia)

Copyright © 1998 Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

Dazzled by the twin beams

Only the Spice Girls have put more bums on seats in the UK this year than Tunde Baiyewu and Paul Tucker. After tomorrow's homecoming show in Newcastle, the Lighthouse Family will have played to 225,000 people in 1998, not to mention the three million copies of their two albums that have slipped into the CD trays of a nation in the past two and a half years.

Their airy MOR style, set in train after a couple of false starts with the 1996 success of *Lifted*, has laid the duo bare to accusations of self-satisfied musical conservatism. As if they need worry. The public appetite for the product is insatiable, but the Family and friends work extremely hard at feeding it. This was their second Wembley engagement of the year and the seventh UK arena date on a schedule that also stretched across seven other European countries.



Tunde Baiyewu and Paul Tucker of the Lighthouse Family

Faced with a choice between Cole Porter and the Celine Dion songbook, vocalists can hardly be blamed for preferring to live in the past. Good songs are still being written, however, even if they rarely get much airplay, and Nicki Leighton-Thomas delivers a basketful of surprises from that eternal swinger, Fran Landesman.

The American expert who gave us *Spring Can Really* Hang You Up The Most was honoured with an appearance on *Desert Island Discs* not too long ago — proof that even bohemians mellow in the end. To judge by her contribution to Leighton-Thomas's endearing album *Damned If I Do*, Landesman's eye for humour and life's dark corners is as sharp as ever.

Leighton-Thomas does not possess the most naturally imposing voice — the tone is often thin and girlish beyond the middle register, and her sense of rhythm sometimes rudimentary. On the other hand it makes a change to hear a singer who is not always veering towards the middle of the Atlantic.

Songs that spring surprises

lace, who acts as composer and arranger on her album. Whenever Landesman's inspiration flags — *In A New Minute*, for instance, is not much more than a tourist bus tour of the mean streets — Wallace is always on hand with a crisp phrase or an unexpected twist of melody. They make an imposing team. I would be surprised not to hear more cover versions of *Only Why No More*, a ballad said to have been inspired by Beckett. Its accumulation of enigmatic phrases leaves the impression of one long, yearning sigh.

Leighton-Thomas played to her strengths, conveying the lyric with the genuine authority of an actress. She sounded just as persuasive on the study in melancholy that was *Down*, as well as on the mischievous Nicki's *Dilemma*. *Love For Sale* supplied a rare look backwards, but the arrangement moved from a conventional verse into a funkier chorus propelled by Alec Dankworth's insistent bass line and Paul Robinson's adroit backbeat. Porter goes contemporary.

CLIVE DAVIS

NEW MUSIC: Gerald Larner listens to works by two Estonian composers in Huddersfield

"I HAVE discovered," Arvo Pärt has observed, "that it is enough when a single note is played beautifully." Many notes, most of them by Pärt, have been beautifully sung and played by the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Tallinn Contemporary Music Festival. They have not been enough.

It is true that impressively large audiences came to the concerts to indulge themselves in Pärt's asceticism and, to judge by their reactions, found some kind of spiritual refreshment in his paucity of spiritual elaboration, self-consciously pure settings of religious texts. It is also true that the real world, but for how long they do that depends entirely on the temperament of the individual member of the congregation. For those who find it difficult to believe in gods and who look to the Huddersfield Festi-

val for contemporary music, the whole Pärt celebration has been a perplexing experience. What is the point, the sceptics might have asked themselves at the first British performance of the *Canon of Repentance*, of this simulation of Russian Orthodox church music and this holy observation of so many of the textual and colour restrictions that implies? The vocal lines and harmonies do flow naturally from the rhythms and inflections of the Slavonic church text and they do immediately create their own atmosphere. The singing of the EPCC under the dedicated direction of Tõnu Kaljuste remained remarkably fresh and admirably secure throughout an

unsparingly long succession of unaccompanied odes and prayers. While appreciating all that, as time went on and the event became less of a musical performance and more a church ritual, any member of the audience who had come to St Paul's Hall for aesthetic interest can only have become increasingly frustrated.

Much the same observations apply to the concert in the Town Hall where the EPCC was joined by the Hilliard Ensemble and the TCO, again under the direction of Pärt's *Litany*, which most prominently includes a prayer setting for an ensemble of four solo voices, is attractive in its ethereal colouring and its precise setting of its English text. But, subtitled "prayers of St John of Chrysostom for each hour of the night and day", *Litany* goes through its basic procedure 24 times, which again represents a submission of music to the ritual of mortification in spite of the overall structural strategy of the piece. The same composer's *Trisagion*, which is scored for string ensemble but articulated according to the inflections of old Slavonic prayers, did little to reverse the balance.

So, in circumstances dominated by the ethos and influence of Pärt, it was brave of Erkki-Sven Tüür, a representative of a younger generation of Estonian composers, to compose a requiem in which he has not only shortened the liturgical text, instead of stretching it to infinity, but has set it and coloured it in his own resourceful way.

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Piers v the black-top bullies

Newspaper pundits were described earlier this autumn as "undertakers", perhaps because we are often called upon to discuss bad news from Fleet Street such as the funeral processions of editors who have "resigned" or whose sales are falling. One recent victim has been Piers Morgan, savagely criticised by his peers for publishing three stories which violated the privacy of Prince Harry at Eilat.

"Mr Morgan's disingenuousness is not just puerile; it is unprofessional," said *The Daily Telegraph* last Saturday. His clash with the Palace was described in *The Guardian* as "wholly fabulous", and it quoted an unnamed tabloid editor describing Morgan as "a bit of the first order who has demeaned the trade".

Unabashed, Morgan turned on his tormentors this week and initiated the first tabloid media column, allegedly written by Lisa O'Carroll but in which all the commentators and analysts sounded uncannily like Morgan himself. It attacked the "black-tops" — *The Guardian*, *Telegraph* and *Times* — and said that their editors were "quaking in their boots" over falling sales.

Morgan describes the new column as his "rapid-response unit". It will be published as and when he thinks fit. "It will depend on how much I am tormented by the black-tops," he says. As he suggests, newspaper sales are certainly falling in the run-up to Christmas, as they always do. Yet his column, since we can all be selective, failed to point out that *Mirror* sales fell in October by 41,000, against 10,000 for *The Times* and 20,800 for *The Daily Telegraph*.

Yet three newspapers are celebrating small triumphs. One belongs to *The Independent*, which has achieved sales increases in five of the six months since Simon Kelner became Editor in May. It sold 223,000 copies a day last month, against 215,000 in April. That still leaves *The Independent* at the bottom of the league, but at least moving in the right direction.

Given the debasing of the *Independent* brand, moreover, since the departure of founding Editor Andreas Whitman Smith — and the three methods of editing the paper tried this year before Kelner's appointment — his is a notable achievement, as well as a small victory for the old-fashioned journalism he has reintroduced.

Tony O'Reilly's *Independent* Newspapers has so far invested £5 million in *The Independent* and is looking for sustainable long-term growth. Two other tiny triumphs were recorded by the Audit Bureau of Circulations last month, when two new national newspapers made their debut. One was *Sunday Business*, launched in February, which recorded a circulation of 50,151. The other was Britain's first national sports newspaper, *Sport First*, launched in March, which declared a sale of 67,000.

Under Editor Jeff Randall, a former City editor of *The Sunday Times* business section, *Sunday Business*, selling at 50p, set itself a modest three-year target, a sale of 80,000-100,000, mainly in London and the South East. "I may sound cocky," says Randall, "but I genuinely believe that we will achieve that circulation within three years."

With two 40-page broadsheet sections, produced by only 40 journalists, Randall is turning out a substantial news-



On the up: *The Independent* finally has cause for cautious optimism, as do newcomers *Sunday Business* and *Sport First*

paper which is high on text, doesn't dumb down, doesn't report sport and commands the respect of its rivals.

His claim that *Sunday Business* has started penetrating the boardroom is supported by MORI's most recent Captains of Industry poll, which indicated that it considered *Sunday Business* more useful than all its rival Sundays apart from *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. Although 30 per cent read *The Mail on Sunday*, only 8 per cent found it useful.

Since it is printed in Portsmouth, *Sunday Business* fails to get north of York and Blackpool, but it will be on sale in Newcastle this Sunday and there are plans to get the paper to Scotland next year, es-

pecially to Edinburgh, the second largest financial services centre in Europe.

Sport First, selling for 50p, is a 64-page tabloid with a heavy emphasis on football but also with decent coverage last week of rugby, racing, cricket and tennis. There are 28 pages on football and another 14 with 10,000 results and fixtures (compared with 21 sports pages in the *News of the World*). It reports or previews every weekend match in the Premiership and in the first, second and third divisions, adds two more pages on non-league football and is pro-

duced by a full-time staff of 15, supplemented on Saturdays by 50 subs. Columnists include Bobby Robson, David Platt and Steve Cram.

Sport First, edited by the former Expressman David Emery, is the brainchild of Keith Young, a veteran printing contractor who made his fortune on the Internet with EasyNet and who is also a big shareholder in Everton. He has spent £3 million on *Sport First* and is hoping that it will be selling 100,000 copies a week by the new year, so that the paper stops "haemorrhaging" money.

Young's experience demonstrates the conflict, at any launch, between ambition and caution. Since spending £150,000 on twenty 30-second advertising slots on LWT on one Saturday night and gaining 35,000 new readers, most of whom stayed loyal, he thinks he may have been too cautious and should have spent more on TV promotion. Nobody is watching the progress of *Sport First* more closely than David Montgomery, the chief executive of Mirror Group, MGN plans to relaunch *Sporting Life* as a seven-day tabloid next year with a target sale of 150,000 a day. Dummies are now being tested on potential readers and Jeremy Reed, the managing director of the *Mirror* sport division, is encouraged by what *Sport First* has achieved with its limited distribution.

Plugging in to Ambridge

PR Week has an intriguing case study of how a pressure group managed to get airtime for its cause on the Radio 4 soap opera *The Archers*.

The British Horse Society this year organised a "Root Out Ragwort Week", to make people aware that the weed can poison horses. Nicola Gregory, the society's press officer, sent information on it to the programme's producers — and the issue was duly mentioned in an August instalment.

Gregory says this triumph marked the highlight of her career. "If you've got a good story and know how to tell it, you can get it anywhere," she says.

ALL lads throughout the world will soon be able to taste the raunchy delights of the monthly *Loaded*, says Press Gazette.

The publishers, IPC, plan to launch separate editions in the United States, Russia, Australia and South Africa. The magazine's up-front approach to sex, drugs and youth culture earns it a circulation of more than 450,000, but it is likely to be toned down for some markets, especially the US.

Loaded was launched in 1994 by Tim Southwell and James Brown. Southwell, who subsequently left the magazine, was appointed editor this week to replace Derek Harbison.

SKULDUGGERY in the placid world of classical music radio is reported by *Marketing Week*. Classic FM has obtained a leaked BBC strategy document

revealing plans to market Radio 3, using a new set of TV trailers on BBC2.

The document says these trailers should be used to target Classic FM and emphasise Radio 3's distinctiveness. Classic FM has already complained to the Broadcasting Standards Commission about an earlier set of ads for Radio 3 on BBC2, in which it claims to have been unfairly attacked.

A MARGARINE war is forecast by *Marketing* in its report of the launch next year by Johnson & Johnson of a new low-cholesterol brand, Benecol, which is said to cut cholesterol levels by 10 per cent.

Saatchi & Saatchi has been appointed to handle the launch, which is expected to come just before the introduction of a rival product by Unilever — marketed either as part of its established Flora range, or under its American brand name, Take Control.

J. WALTER THOMPSON has come top of *Marketing Week's* Agency Reputations Survey for the fourth successive year. Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO came second and McCann-Erickson third. In the award's ten-year history, JWT has won eight times. The magazine says its strengths lie in its clients' long-term interests, its marketing and strategy analysis and its strong management.

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digest

'You've got to follow the money — a joint venture in Europe is the way forward'

Rupert Murdoch is seeking media deals with partners on the Continent. It is, he tells Raymond Snoddy, the place to be

This weekend Rupert Murdoch was planning to spend Thanksgiving at his farm in Carmel, California. It was going to be a rare four-day holiday for the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of The Times.

"I was really looking forward to it. I needed it to recharge my batteries," says Murdoch. Instead he will be flying the Atlantic back to London for expected talks with Franco Bernabè, the newly appointed chief executive of Telecom Italia. A planned joint venture with the Italian group to launch digital satellite television in Italy is the first and most significant part of a new attack on the continental European market through a new Milan-based subsidiary, News Corp Europe.

Instead of the holiday, Murdoch says that he will probably be "walking around Sky. It won't be heavy duty."

On Monday he was in London for the News Corp Europe launch. Then it was off to the US for a speaking engagement at the Harvard Business School on Tuesday.

"I would like to attract business graduate students in the US and the UK into the media and let them know that life doesn't have to lead to an investment bank or McKinsey (the management consultants)."

Rupert Murdoch is talking over coffee in the lounge of the Savoy Hotel soon after introducing the executive chairman of News Corp Europe, Letizia Moratti (the former chairwoman of RAI, the Italian state broadcaster) to the international press.

In addition to the partnership with Telecom Italia, News Corp Europe plans a joint venture with TF1, the French broadcaster, to launch a cable and satellite channel targeted at 15 to 35-year-olds. More partnerships and deals are clearly under way, although Murdoch says he much prefers the operational side of newspapers and TV to the hours spent inside merchant banks finalising deals.

He says he is enjoying life very much and has lost none of his appetite for expanding News Corporation — even though it is "a little too frantic". Earlier this month there were the "road shows" for the public offering of shares in the Fox film and TV businesses, which involved two trips to the UK in two weeks and up to eight presentations a day in 15 American cities.

At the end of it he had to fly to Australia for the weekend to attend the funeral of his first wife Patricia: their marriage was dissolved 30 years ago.

Talking about his schedule, Murdoch, who will be 68 in March, says: "I keep fit. I work out at the gym every day. I get the chance, which means when I am in New York or Los Angeles, I feel I am fitter than I have ever been. I hope I am mentally fit as well."

The move into Europe is one of News Corporation's most significant for some time and comes after possible links with Canal Plus in France, with the Kirch organisation in Germany, and with Silvio Berlusconi — "at his invitation" —

came to nothing. A newspaper joint venture in Germany with the publishers Burda was a failure. Until now, despite the aspirations, there has been little in continental Europe apart from a 49 per cent stake in the German television channel VOX and a Dutch radio station. All that is going to change.

"I think it has become essential for an international company to follow this globalisation thing," says Murdoch. "You have got to follow the money and, apart from the emotions, Europe is 40 per cent of the media market, the US is 40 per cent and the rest is 20 per cent."

Worse, much worse, than the cultural and linguistic barriers were the politics and the different media rules in virtually every country. "A European venture with a European face and European partners, I think, is the only way forward," says Murdoch, who is seeking partners to take 5 per cent or 10 per cent stakes in the holding company. On a country-by-country basis, part-

ners would take much larger stakes, such as Telecom Italia's planned 51 per cent in the digital satellite venture to News Corp Europe's 39 per cent. Murdoch declines to name potential partners, although it is likely that they will include major European publishing houses anxious to extend their presence in the electronic media. The Axel Springer group of Germany, publishers of *Bild* newspaper, and Rizzoli, owners of the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper, are clearly in the running.

As he opens up a new front in the international media battle, Murdoch is very content at the current state of his existing businesses and believes that Britain "is quite the star performer".

"The SkyDigital launch has been terrific. It has succeeded in fixing in the public mind that digital and Sky are almost synonymous," he says. "The next stage of the marketing campaign will be to promote specific channels such as Discovery and National Geographic, and the coverage of live events."

His mood is hardening against ONdigital, the digital terrestrial service, which also carries BSkyB channels such as sports and movies. Murdoch says he finds it hard that BSkyB should have to provide its best programmes to ONdigital while ONdigital is not required to "supply its programmes to us, inasmuch as it has any".

"We had to fight them to get the money we were owed and had to fight the Independent Television Commission at every stage to get a level playing field."

He says of ONdigital: "I think we are real rivals now and in some ways we would love to be able to keep all the sport to ourselves, because we pioneered it."

He adds with a grin: "We are going out to win."

Rupert Murdoch says that his UK newspapers — *The Sun*, *News of the*



Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation: ready to do business on the Continent

World, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* — are "holding their positions in the marketplace extremely well" and a period of stability is likely with no intensification of the price war. There is a slight downturn in classified advertising at *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, although this has been more than made up for by better-than-expected national advertising.

Although there has been an occasional raised eyebrow over some of *The Sun's* headlines — asking if Tony Blair was the most dangerous man in Britain over the euro, and wondering whether Britain was run by "a gay mafia" — are the main examples — Murdoch says he is a "100 per cent supporter" of David Yelland's editorship.

"There have been moments of overstatement but David is a very intelligent young man, and it is inevitable when a new editor comes into a paper, which was in danger of losing its self-confidence, and forces the pace that there will be a few mistakes," he says. "But David is the sort of person who learns from his mistakes without a word from me or anyone else."

Murdoch is watching the uncertainty over the future of Polygram Films Entertainment production carefully and would be very interested in working with some of its independent producers if they became available.

If the price was right, News Corporation might still be interested in EMI, the

music publishing and record group, despite Murdoch's worries about the music market.

In the UK, Murdoch believes he could now be "a natural ally" of the BBC and would like to work more closely with the corporation. In the past, he says, people have exaggerated his opposition to the BBC simply because certain editors of

The Sun have taken against the corporation, as have editors of *The Times*, mainly over the licence fee.

"I have always had, I think, good relations with the governors of the BBC," he says. "I think we could work with them and I would like to. Our problem is that in the ranks of the BBC there is an elitism which doesn't like me or our newspapers, or Sky in particular. Their strategy department seems obsessed with how to fight Sky and Murdoch rather than what's best for the BBC."

He is delighted that, for the past three weeks, Fox Broadcasting has been the number one US network in its 15 hours of prime-time programming — though mainly by holding on to its audience as others fell away.

But even as he notes with pleasure such unexpected successes, Murdoch still worries about one subject — what to do about the Internet.

"The huge trend in the media is the Internet. It is immense and we have a constant discussion," he says. Yet apart

from using the Internet for brand extension, News Corporation has not taken a major plunge. Murdoch could, he says, have bought a large stake in Amazon.com, the Internet book-selling service, and made a \$1 billion capital gain by selling the stake. But Amazon, he adds, has yet to make a penny profit and is already facing intensified competition.

Murdoch points out that 140 companies raised capital in the US in the early days of the automobile and none is around today. "There will certainly be a time. We will find a way into it (the Internet) but if you are going to make money out of it, you have to provide a unique service that will be hard for anyone to imitate, or some form of branded merchandise."

As he spends the Thanksgiving weekend trying to cement the big move into Italy on the back of exclusive football rights, the goal is clear in his mind. "All types of information are going to become ubiquitous in every home. You get it off satellite, off an ISDN telephone line or your cable. The transactions will be tremendous. The working wife will do her supermarket shopping when she gets home on Friday night — the same order as last week, plus strawberries, and for a £3 or £4 surcharge it will be on your doorstep at 9am," Murdoch forecasts.

The only tricky bit will be actually getting there.

My PR strategy for Boycott

ON THE face of it, defending the reputation of self-confessed male chauvinist and professional Yorkshireman Geoffrey Boycott against allegations of battering his girlfriend at a luxury hotel on the Côte d'Azur was going to be an uphill struggle. So many public preconceptions and misconceptions, there was precious little point in trying to reinvent my client.

Ironically, I was approached first by his former girlfriend, Margaret Moore — she was drinking champagne with a friend at the time and demanding £1 million for details of an attack at the hands of one of the "world's biggest stars". The clock struck 13 and I knew this woman was not for Max Clifford.

Subsequently, Geoffrey's people were in contact and I had realised in the interim that if, as claimed, he had hit her 20 times then Ms Moore's face would be a bloody pulp. Of course, it would be a challenge to save his reputation but she was living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

The verdict of the French judge, who refused to admit evidence which might have proved Ms Moore had fallen and hit her head on a table, in conjunction with *The Sun's* stand against Boycott, looked grim. But, like or despise the man, he has no previous form for battering anyone, male or female.

The strategy was simple — England's greatest ever defensive batsman must open himself up to scrutiny from television, press, and radio journalists in an attempt to salvage his career as a cricket commentator from the ashes. He was on a good wicket, anyway — his trial in Grasse was widely acknowledged as a shambles and, three weeks on, the controversy rumbles still.

The PR plan adopted has been to challenge journalists to look at all the evidence revealed at the trial and then to make up their own minds as to who is telling the truth. Fortunately for Boycott, it is a message that has been working effectively for him and resulted in interviews and news features in the *Daily Mail*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Mirror* and *The Express*.

TV appearances on BBC and GMTV have shown increasing public support for Boycott. Interviews on Radio 5 Live and Talk Radio with



the associated phone-ins revealed 70 per cent in his favour. Additional support came from Erin Pizzey, founder of the Women's Refuge, who on TV and radio declared that she believed and supported the former cricketer.

It wasn't a walkover, though. Newspaper columnist and TV presenter Nina Myskova declared that she did not believe Boycott's version of events and was pleased with the verdict. But with detractors like her who needs supporters?

Of all the national and local newspapers that carried Boycott features and interviews, only *The Express* came out for Margaret Moore — not surprising, maybe, when you consider that the *Daily Mail's* Lynda Lee-Potter, Angela Levin and Ian Wooldridge had all written extremely supportive articles. In addition to gaining increasing support from the public, the media PR assault by Boycott has meant that discussions are now taking place with people who in the changing climate feel comfortable employing him as a commentator/analyst. Talk Radio has already signed him to cover the Ashes tour, and other contracts will be announced soon.

■ HOW delicious that our hereditary peers might be saved from extinction with the help of a Hollywood film star. Who would have thought that a potential saviour could come in the shape of Jamie Lee Curtis? In a desperate attempt to blunt Tony Blair's axe, Jamie was wheeled in on the arm of her husband, Lord Haden-Guest, to the delight of the assembled company. Her appearance captured a vast amount of media attention, almost overshadowing the arrival of the Queen.

The message was loud and clear: "We are not old, powdered and out of touch. How can we possibly be when Lady Haden-Guest, better known as Ms Lee Curtis, is one of us."

Such is the passion stirred up among these noble peers that cries of "shame" were heard as the Queen announced plans for their abolition, the first time in living memory that the Sovereign's address had been interrupted.

With a Hollywood queen triumphing their cause and William Hague, the Conservative leader, pledging his support, this drama looks set to create a media feast for years to come.

My personal worry would be that if so many of them are thrown out of the Lords, where else could they go? They might find themselves involved with everyday life and start to cause a bloody nuisance to the rest of us.

■ Max Clifford is managing director of Max Clifford Associates Ltd

Is no one thirsty for Kirsty, any more?

IS THE Kirsty Young bubble about to burst? When ITV confirmed Trevor McDonald and Dermot Murnaghan as presenters for the new 6.30pm and 11pm news this week there was no mention of Channel 5's golden girl. An ITV executive explained gleefully that they had no plans to buy her out of her contract with CS, which runs to the end of 1999. Kelvin MacKenzie scathingly dubbed her "the invisible woman" when he hosted her breakfast show since July despite signing for a year.

Instead, that likeable rising star Katie Derham, ITN's arts and media correspondent, will stand in for Murnaghan when he stands in for McDonald at 6.30pm.

Meanwhile, Chris Shaw, Channel 5's new head of factual programmes and the man behind Young's success on Channel 5 News, is promising to foster her career with a bigger-budget talk

show. (Channel 5 never approved of her Talk Radio deal.) One final thought: those at the sharp end of the news business point out that Young's agent is Mike Hollingsworth, estranged husband of Anne Diamond.

■ HUGE relief at loss-making GMTV after the offer of a £30 million a year cut in its franchise payments. Eamonn Holmes, its emcee, may apply for a rise, but I'm told that GMTV's programme budget will be the beneficiary. At £25,000 an hour, GMTV spends half the amount of BBC Breakfast News and ITV's daytime shows, and is even cheaper to make than the £30,000 an hour that ITV allocates for regional programmes. There

will be more live news reports, such as today's item about switching on the Christmas lights at Omagh, which GMTV sees as its key selling point. Its top programme executives are off on a two-day conference next week to work out their game plan. Inevitably, it is braced for a bidding war with ITV's new tabloid current affairs programme, the unofficially named *60 Minutes*.

■ THE Granada team devising *60 Minutes* is also holding a big pow-wow next week, attended by presenter Trevor McDonald, to flesh out the concept. Jeff Ander-



son, the editor, has received around 5,000 applications for the 30-plus jobs on offer, with the cream of BBC journalists forming part of the stampede to join the other star presenter, Martin Bashir.

But Anderson is anxious to hire tabloid newspaper talent: they are the ones, he says, who know how to dig — although Granada's in-house *World in Action* team has a pretty good record at the more seri-

ous stuff. With a £200,000-an-hour budget, *60 Minutes* is going to bid for exclusives with big names in the news, such as Geoff Boycott. How would it cover the Ron Davies affair? I'm told the programme might try to interview his wife, or former wife, or run a knockabout piece about Clapham house prices and their residents. The rest of us could then laugh at the City types who compete to pay upwards of £300,000 for a cramped Victorian terrace.

■ IT'S the biggest media story of the year... sales of broadsheet newspapers are plummeting.

With this battle cry, Piers Morgan, the Editor of *The Mirror*, ordered a new media column this week to attack the "black-top" media pundits such as *The Guardian's* Roy Green and *Wiv Envy's* Greenslade, who keep writing about how the "red tops" are in decline. Morgan huffs: "It's a rapid response column to be utilised to take revenge against the cant and hypocrisy from the unpopular press. Every broadsheet journalist should feel apprehensive." Alan Rusbridger, the Editor of *The Guardian*, sent a spoof legal letter. Simon Kelner, the Editor of *The Independent*, wrote to advise that his name was spelt with one "l".

■ The *Daily Mail* on Monday ran a banner headline across Page 1:

"Why we should all turn off our TV sets tonight." Holding *Nanny* Mail by the hand, I half took the paper's advice at 9pm, watching *Vice: The Sex Trade* from behind the sofa. I caught sight of a fat man being wrapped up in a nappy and being offered a breast to nuzzle.

Since some ten million viewers are lapping up this stuff, is the *Mail* out of touch with Middle England? Well, a very senior ITV executive tells me that he's unhappy with the series too, that it's tacky, satellite TV fodder, not the sort of mainstream programme you would expect on Britain's most popular network.

Another executive says it has not been "very revelatory" — though perhaps we should be thankful for that. But he added that it's the sort of series which can be played more suitably at 10pm, once *News at Ten* is dropped next March.

media times

Small is beautiful again

Film shorts are enjoying a revival, says Imogen O'Rourke

The short film, the long-lost second cousin of widescreen cinema, is making a commercial comeback. Audiences who pay to see the new British romantic comedy, *If Only*, in London and at multiplexes around the country when it opens today, will be getting another love tangle thrown in for free: *Blink*, an 11-minute film, written and directed by Amy Jenkins, the creator of *This Life*.

Cinemagoers who have been turning up to see *Divorcing Jack*, may already have caught Ewan McGregor in *Desserts*, a three-minute short in which he stars as a human fish, made by Geoff Stark, a commercial director.

The last short to have such wide distribution in the UK went out with *Tootsie* in 1983. In the Seventies, the grainy wildlife film, dusted down from the BBC film archive, or the edifying travelogue about ballooning, was a common sight in front of the main feature. But the rise in the Eighties of the one-minute ad rang their death knell. At the time, they hardly seemed worth saving.

The shorts that are screened today are as sophisticated as the main feature. *Blink's* storyline is based around a baby elephant which sits on a kitchen table crying — a great, fat metaphor for the problems in a young couple's relationship. *Desserts* shows Ewan McGregor discovering a chocolate éclair on a beach, which he bites into — at his peril. Everyone in the industry knows that shorts do not make money — not for the exhibitors, the distributors, the



Blink, above, scripted by Amy Jenkins; and *Desserts*, with Ewan McGregor, below, have made it to the big screen



producers, least of all for the actors. So why are so many being made and why are some at last getting distributed?

"Shorts are like an apprenticeship," says Alex Johnson, the 27-year-old producer of *Blink*. "Most directors cut their teeth on shorts, from Guy Ritchie (*Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*) to Scorsese. But it is still more difficult to get a short film shown

than it is to raise the money to make it."

Johnson managed to get Film Four funding under the Short and Curly scheme, which functions as a hothouse for young film-makers and guarantees screening on BBC2 and Channel 4. The commission was a statutory £80,000 for which hundreds applied. It was good timing — *This Life* fever was at its height.

From the point of view of the distributor, Pathe, taking up *Blink* was a gamble. "We are interested in encouraging new talent and this is a good way to ensure their work gets seen," says Nick Hill, the managing director of Pathe. "but financially, shorts are not worth our while." (Notwithstanding the benefit of founding a good relationship with a new writer: Jenkins has been chosen, with Steve Coogan and John Hodgson, to write the next *Travis* film, as one of 16 scriptwriters to gain from a lottery grant of £25 million.)

Blink had good fortune. The sobering truth is that, at present, fewer than one in a hundred shorts ever gets shown. Michael Wren, from Fire-sign, the short film collective backed by Levi Strauss, which helped to distribute *Desserts*, thinks part of the problem is that the makers of short films still have a lot to learn. "Most shorts are terrible. Either not properly funded or, as is often the case with film school graduates, too crowded."

Fire-sign has received a grant, jointly with the London Film and Video Development Agency, from the Arts 4 Everyone lottery scheme, to ensure that more short films get shown. Jill Robertson, the producer of *Desserts*, who is likely to be a beneficiary of the A4E fund, believes things are looking up. "Last year it was different. I had a huge struggle to get my short film, *Magic Moments* (starring Dougray Scott), shown." (It finally went out with *Ma Vie en Rose*.)

"From the outset with *Desserts*," she says, "we thought, 'let's get distributed', not 'let's make it and then see if we can get a distributor'. Film-makers can't sit in dreamland, they must make films that have something to offer."

The Short Film Bureau, which was set up a year ago "to get short films shown", is convinced that the medium has commercial potential. Last week the SFB had a meeting with major distributors and exhibitors, who agreed to start distributing short films.

With more shorts going out in 1999 — including Fire-sign's *Salt Bunnies*, described as the first silent techno movie, to go with Linklater's *Suburbia*, and Kathy Burke's writing-directorial debut, *The End*, which has been matched with a French farce, *Sitcom* — there is evidence that distributors are realising that short films are worth making space for.

Carlton and the loose connection

Something strange happened at the Independent Television Commission's press conference on Wednesday, held to announce how it would value the licence fees of 11 ITV franchises for the next ten years.

The result was great for GMTV, the loss-making commercial breakfast channel, not so good for Lord Hollick's United News and Media, and produced modest savings for Michael Green's Carlton Television in London. As journalists worried away at ITC predictions on the growth of digital television — 50 per cent penetration by 2008, including some, but not all, digital satellite homes — an unfamiliar figure at media press conferences asked a startling question. Was it not, the reporter asked, a case of putting the cart before the horse to offer Carlton a new licence when the ITC might have to remove its licence because of *The Connection* drug-trafficking programme and the Castro dossier?

The journalist was Michael Gillard and the programmes he was talking about were two Carlton documentaries that Gillard and a colleague, Laurie Flynn, both working for *The Guardian*, have denounced in front-page articles as fakes. The award-winning *Connection*, purporting to show the opening-up of a new drugs route from Colombia to London, is now the subject of a Carlton investigation under the supervision of independent lawyers. The ITC is indeed waiting for a final version of the report, expected within two weeks, before deciding what action to take.

The press conference question was, however, naive. There is no chance that Carlton will lose its licence because there is no evidence that anybody at Carlton headquarters was knowingly involved in faking anything. Against a background of growing controversy over what documentary film-makers get up to and where the lines of acceptable behaviour lie, the Carlton investigation report will be an important document.

The investigation is expected to find that there was a serious failure of compliance — the process that ensures that the rules of television are properly observed and that, with factual programmes the viewer can rely on the fact that what they see is true — at Carlton. There is no doubt that in several cases viewers were misled by *The Connection*. In just one example a drug "mule" is seen swallowing what are alleged to be drugs. The

commentary says: "Within 24 hours he will be in London." He is then shown alighting at Heathrow the next morning. In fact, the flight took place months later and viewers were not told this. There are also allegations that the drug carriers were actors.

As usual, the truth is complex. At its heart is the researcher on the programme, Adriana Quintana, who was *The Guardian's* main source for its allegations. Unfortunately, there is evidence that Ms Quintana has said inconsistent and contradictory things and there seems to be no argument that she was in dispute with Carlton over money. She arrived at the company with a document shortly before transmission but the conversation, it is believed, was mainly about money.

When that dispute was resolved the document was not read in detail. Had it been, there is little doubt that Carlton

would have taken a long, hard look at *The Connection* before airing it. Greater editorial scepticism might also have been in order, as it really likely that the No 3 in the Cali cartel would explain on camera how they planned to set up a drugs route into the UK?

The nature of the information in the report and in a *Hard News* special on the issue — to be broadcast by Channel 4 tomorrow at 8pm — suggests that the ITC is likely to fine Carlton and advise it to tighten its procedures. The programme looks not just at the journalism in *The Connection*, but also how *The Guardian* went about its investigation.

Although the programme will confirm many of *The Guardian's* main points, it finds that things are not as simple as the newspaper thinks, and that it didn't get everything right itself. One complaint is that *The Guardian* did not initially mention that there was some conflict of interests with one of the reporters involved. So I had better mention that my own connections include presenting the *Hard News* special.

As so often in human affairs, cock-ups are far more frequent and likely than deliberate mendacity, and so it is here. *The Guardian* is to be congratulated on pointing out the deficiencies in *The Connection* — much less so in denouncing a five-year-old documentary on Castro as a fake. It would have been even better, though, had it done its job with less hyperbole, and without ascribing the worst-possible motives to all those involved.



Michael Gillard

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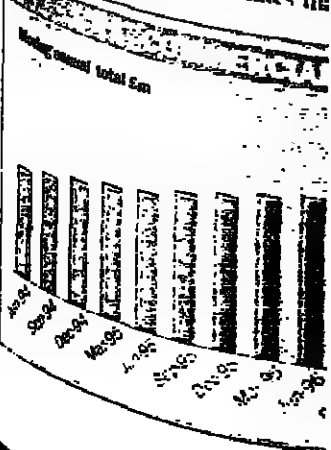
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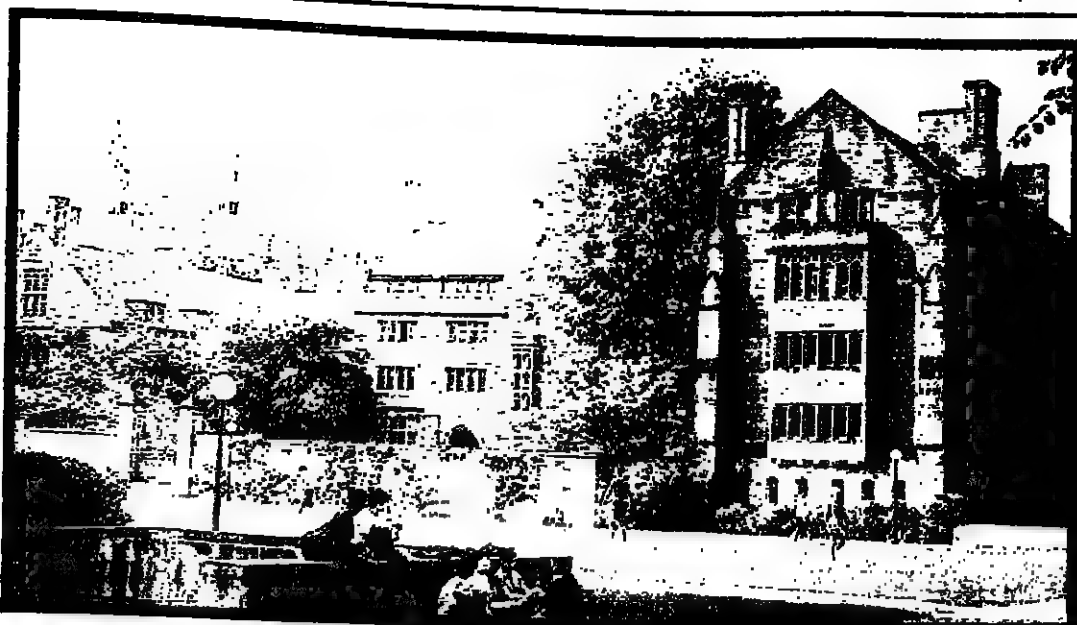
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COMMERCIAL radio revenue continues upward momentum, with figures for the third quarter of 1998 hitting 196 million, up 11.5 per cent on 1997. The figures bring the total for the months to September 1998 to 5400 million, up 17.4 per cent year on year. The increasing revenue indicates the



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EDUCATION



Yale was in considerable financial disarray when Professor Levin became President

Yale's key to world status

The leaders of arguably the two best universities in the world were in Oxford this week to be feted by their alma mater. Amid the pomp and nostalgia, they can only have been reassured that the balance of academic power has shifted decisively in their favour since they first saw the dreaming spires.

Professor Richard Levin, President of Yale University, and Professor Neil Rudenstine, his opposite number at Harvard, were students at Oxford more than 30 years ago. The unique ceremony that brought them both back to Britain to receive honorary degrees served as an occasion for polite ribbing about the rivalry between America's most famous universities.

The more tempting comparison from a British point of view, however, is with Oxford and Cambridge. Yale, in particular, has striking similarities with our ancient universities: almost 300 years old, it is tiny by American standards with only 5,300 undergraduates, divided into colleges on the Oxbridge model, a byword for academic excellence and a breeding-ground for the great and the good.

Running a world-class university is increasingly expensive, however, and here the transatlantic parallels stop. Oxford and Cambridge receive about £6,000 a year per undergraduate in grants and fees; Yale charges £18,000 a year for tuition, bed and board, and even that does not cover the full cost.

Professor Levin is too much of a diplomat to run down his old university. Before returning to New Haven, he insisted that "it is still the case that the leading universities in the United States regard Oxford and Cambridge as peer institutions". But he had to acknowledge that the funding gap made it increasingly difficult for the British universities to compete at the highest level of research.

Top academics, particularly in the sciences, demand high salaries and expensive facilities. Although Oxford and Cambridge have succeeded in luring some back from America — their current Vice-Chancellors are prime examples — the flow is mainly in the opposite direction. Yale has a number of prominent British academics on its staff, some recruited only this year.

The financial advantages that make this possible were already becoming established when Professor Levin was at Merton College at the

The economist who rescued an Ivy League college says universities must bring in more money. Interview by John O'Leary

end of the 1960s. "The US Government's generous funding for scientific enterprise in the years after the war gave us a very strong base on which to build," he says. "That infusion of resources has continued, with occasional bumps along the road, and we have been able to add to it ourselves."

The scale of the academic business, which all universities have become, is almost unimaginable on this side of the Atlantic. When Professor Levin took over the presidency in 1993, Yale was running a deficit of almost £11 million a year — about a third of the annual income of smaller universities in Britain at the time. He has since overseen a fundraising campaign, which has produced more than £1 billion, investing nearly £400 million in campus facilities.

Oxford raised £341 million in Britain's most successful academic appeal, which ended formally in 1994. It has since enjoyed some spectacular benefactions such as Wafiq Said's £30 million gift for the business school that will bear his name, but the most optimistic fundraiser could not aspire to Yale's riches.

Professor Levin says: "We are fortunate even by American standards — only eight or ten institutions get

The funding gap makes it increasingly difficult for British universities to compete

such a large proportion of their revenue from gifts and endowments. But philanthropy is a much more powerful tradition in the United States. We never had this great dependence on the State that developed in Britain."

Half all Yale's graduates give money to the university each year, and almost three quarters did so during the five-year appeal. "Each generation of students feels an obligation to help the next, just as previous generations helped them," Professor Levin says.

Even so, the appeal was slow to get off the ground because Yale was in considerable disarray when Professor Levin became President. The Dean of the college (Yale's undergraduate hall) and Provost had resigned the previous year, as well as the President, and many graduates wondered if they would be pouring good money after bad. Many elegant campus buildings had fallen into disrepair and the university's place at the pinnacle of American higher education was under threat.

Professor Levin, an economist who had spent his entire working life at Yale, was chosen partly for the diplomatic skills he would need to drive through a programme of staffing cuts. But his financial strategy, implemented with the aid of one of America's most successful corporate investment managers, has left the university in a stronger position than reasonably could have been expected. The total endowment is up to £3.5 billion, the campus has been repaired and the university is ready for a new phase of development.

As a distinguished academic, Professor Levin does not want to be remembered merely as a "genial Mr Fix-it", as the university newspaper has dubbed him. His critics have accused him of lacking vision, but a high-powered team is now mulling over Yale's future direction.

Soon after his appointment, Professor Levin famously stood on a chair among his colleagues and shouted "I really love this place". When he held out successfully against expansion, there were those who feared that he loved it too much as it was. But growth is back on the long-term agenda, and he has plans to strengthen parts of the university "where we can make a difference".

These are likely to include the environmental sciences, where he believes that Yale could be a world



Professor Richard Levin famously stood on a chair and shouted to his colleagues: "I really love this place"

leader, with undergraduate programmes ripe for further development and policy research already strong. Greater involvement in distance education is also likely, mainly for professional development courses, and international activity is also earmarked for further expansion.

Not that Yale is in academic decline. It tied with Harvard and Princeton for top place in this year's rankings for undergraduate education, the quality of applicants is higher than ever and research income is growing rapidly. But the university remains in Harvard's shadow in terms of public profile.

"Harvard is much bigger, it has greater depth of faculty and it is more visible internationally as a result," Professor Levin says. "That is one of the things we want to address."

Domestically, Yale's traditions and its high-profile graduates assure it of a place in the nation's consciousness. Three of the last five Presidents, including Bill Clinton, were educated there, and celebrity graduates such as Meryl Streep and Paul Newman attract those who recoil from politicians.

Yale does not suffer to anything like the same extent as Oxford and Cambridge do from an image of social exclusivity. The size of its endowment ensures that any applicant who meets the stringent entry requirements can be supported financially, if necessary. More than 90 per cent of students receive some support, and the average debt on graduation is about £10,000 — a figure likely to be exceeded in Britain before long.

Professor Levin, who met a group of Vice-Chancellors in London during his visit, is convinced that the leading British universities will have to take the same route if they are to continue to compete with the best. "The current fees will not produce the money a top university needs, and I imagine that this will be an interim stage to a system more like the American one."

Muddle over modular A levels

Coursework is overwhelming, says Susan Elkin

Modular courses are all the educational rage and next week's school league tables will underline again the advantages enjoyed by students taking modular A levels. Research has shown grades to be consistently higher than on traditional courses.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has decreed that he wants all A-level courses to become modular, with bite-sized chunks examined periodically during the course, culminating in a final grade. But has he thought about the practicalities?

I have just completed my first full cycle of teaching modular A-level English. The first grades were pleasingly high, but the continuous anxiety during the course led one student to remark: "The whole thing's been a nightmare."

Most pupils arrive in A-level classes at age 16, "just three years out of GCSE nappies", as a student once described it, and unless Lord Dearing's proposals for A-level reform are implemented, a change to this is unlikely. A-level examinations are set at the uniform standard designed for the end of the time-honoured two-year course. If you try to cram in a chunk of A-level work in the first term or two of year 12 and then enter students for the examination, a substantial number do badly. Has Mr Blunkett considered how demoralising this can be?

This is not the pupils' fault: most students would have sailed through, given another year. Of course, they can retake, but their initial failure leads to enormous distress.

Meanwhile, some students have excelled and are ready to move on. How does Mr Blunkett expect such mixed classes to be taught? Half are now working for two modules, and are having to do twice as much work as their peers — while the other half are forging ahead on a single new module.

The only way to make this work effectively would be almost to negotiate an individual learning programme with every student. But current A-level syllabuses are, mainly, theory-based and students need an abundance of the sort of information that comes largely from fairly traditional teaching. It would be impossible for me to ensure that enough knowledge is gained by students about, say, *Measure for Measure* without a great deal of whole-group, teacher-led discussion.

The same goes for my colleagues in the history department trying to teach, for instance, dictators of the 20th century, and for modern languages teachers working on vocabulary and grammar: not to mention the scientists and mathematicians.

Timetabling these modules is complex. Most schools have just continued as they have done for decades, allotting eight periods per week for each A-level subject. In practice, what happens is that a student might be taking several modular examinations during any one of the four exam sessions which fall in the two years. Naturally, this student's attention will be focused entirely on those examinations. The student will put all other work aside for quite long stretches and will be given — or simply take — study leave. Frequently in the past two years, my students have not produced homework, or have missed my lessons because of work for another subject's module. The time "lost" adds up to many weeks. Result? Some fall seriously behind.

In fact, the pattern of the school year doesn't fit modular arrangements. Exams are currently set biannually in January and June, so they don't even fall at the end of unbroken blocks of teaching time. If modules-for-all are to become a reality, we must move to a four or five-term year.

What price must students then pay for a rounded education? If you condemn them to two years of frenzied, near-continuous cramming, and the repeated resitting of examinations, when are they supposed to play in sports teams and to take part in plays? Such extra-curricular activities are falling off, although they are prized by future employers and by universities.

We need dramatically different kinds of syllabuses which can be learnt in a much more ad hoc way. The concept of school education being a group of young people shut in a room with a teacher for a fixed time — at least at post-16 age group — will probably have to go. So will the traditional three-term year and long, unevenly spaced holidays. At present we are trying to ram a square peg into a round hole, and the cracks are beginning to show.

Why children must learn to make it

We all know about the merits of academic success at school. Pupils are coaxed towards what is commonly believed to be the pinnacle of their school careers — GCSEs and then A levels. But throughout Britain, the familiar anguish of factory managers is "We are desperate for bright, practical kids — why can't the schools deliver them any more?" At the same time, careers teachers can be heard to tell their pupils: "I know you love making things but if you want to be an engineer, it's got to be maths and physics A level, not design and technology."

This week the Crafts Council held a conference to present the findings of "Learning Through Making", its two-year investigation examining the benefits of craft-based experience at every stage of education. The controversial challenge was to emphasise the importance of education and industry just how vital it is to devise a national curriculum that timetables the development of creative and practical skills.

The academic anti-practical work ideology pervades our education system and much of society. Our economy pays the price as foreign cars dominate our roads and refits of the QE2 and other such contracts go abroad. "In the next century, creativity and knowledge will be the key tools," Tony Blair has acknowledged, "and Britain has always been a world leader in creativity and innovation." But results show that time given to these skills is inadequate.

The research was undertaken at Loughborough, Middlesex and Sheffield Hallam Universities. The concept of "craft" was far

Pupils without a practical education are missing out. John Eggleston reports

wider than even the Crafts Council had expected. It ranged from sophisticated cookery, vintage train restorations through to major industrial activity on film sets. Like all good research, the results accord with common sense — the hope is that added legitimacy will guarantee improvement.

Middlesex University's results, based on interviews with more than a thousand employees, teachers and pupils across the South East of England, showed unanimous enthusiasm for intelligent and practical education. They showed enhanced employability and commitment to personal relationships. Those involved with crafts and practical skills were definitely not found to be problem children or problem workers.

One of the key findings was that there is a desperate shortage of workers with basic practical competence, and now many young people face unemployment because they lack any practical skills. Children enjoy making things at school and are keen to do more until, sadly, they are seduced by the academic values of the education system. Many pupils are unable to respond to these values and so are destined to be considered as low achiev-

ers. The research also confirms what many teachers already know — that a programme of practical activities enhances the capabilities of most children in the basic subjects: English, maths and science. The Government has abandoned obligatory design, technology and art in primary schools and is reducing it in the 13-plus age group.

Further on, the students who do persevere and graduate in practical design-related studies find themselves well-placed in key economic activities, ranging from modelling prostheses and car prototypes to designing sets for *Titanic*. But even they may experience a spell of unemployment or part-time working before senior management is willing to recognise and engage their talent. The Crafts Council research also painted a wider picture, demonstrating the huge public enthusiasm for practical creativity involving adult leisure activity, ranging from basic DIY to highly skilled craft activities. Much of the enjoyment was seen to spring from beginnings achieved in school although often regarded as frustratingly insufficient.

The results of the Crafts Council initiative are being circulated and hopefully read widely, especially at senior management and policy level. It is vital that they are, because sadly, this may be the Crafts Council's swansong as an independent body. It faces absorption and possible dispersion within the Arts Council under a government reorganisation.

● The author is Professor of Education at the University of Warwick



Competence building: technology studies at Lyndhurst School in Borehamwood

Court of Appeal

Law Report November 27 1998

Queen's Bench Division

Disquiet over work safety fines

ITC power over pay channels

Regina v F. Howe and Son (Engineers) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Scott Baker and Mr Justice Hughes
[Judgment November 6]

In recent years there had been an increasing recognition of the seriousness of health and safety offences, and disquiet had been expressed that the level of fine for such offences was too low.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, stated when giving reasons for allowing, on October 26, 1998, appeals by F. Howe and Son (Engineers) Ltd against fines totalling £48,000 and an order for costs of £7,500, imposed on November 10, 1997 by Judge Fannin at Bristol Crown Court following pleas of guilty to four offences under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and related regulations. The fine was reduced to £15,000.

Mr Ian Dixey for the appellant; Mr Hugh Carlisle, QC and Mr Oba Nsubogu for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER, giving the reserved reasons of the court, said that the appellant company was a small precision engineering company. The prosecution came about as a result of a fatal accident which occurred on August 13, 1996 when an employee aged 26 was electrocuted while cleaning the appellant's factory.

The general duties of employers under the 1974 Act were qualified by taking steps so far as were reasonably practicable. Failure to fulfil the general duties was particularly serious as those duties were the foundations for protecting health and safety.

In the early 1990s Parliament introduced the exemplary maximum fine of £20,000 for breach of the general duties under sections 2 to 6 of the Act where the offence was dealt with summarily.

Following that, the average fine

in the magistrates courts, per offence prosecuted, had risen but it was still less than one third of the maximum. In the crown court, where the level of fine was unlimited, the 1997/98 average fine per offence was £17,763.

Disquiet had been expressed in several quarters that the level of fine for such offences was too low. The circumstances of individual cases of course varied almost infinitely and very few cases reached the Court of Appeal.

Accordingly it was difficult for judges and magistrates, who only rarely dealt with those cases, to have an instinctive feel for the appropriate level of penalty.

Their Lordships would endeavour to outline some of the relevant factors that should be taken into account, emphasising that it was impossible to lay down any tariff or to say that the fine should bear any specific relationship to the turnover or net profit of the defendant. Each case must be dealt with according to its own peculiar circumstances.

In assessing the gravity of the breach it was often helpful to look at how far short of the appropriate standard the defendant fell in failing to meet the "reasonably practicable" test.

Next, it was often a matter of chance whether death or serious injury resulted from even a serious breach. Generally where death was the consequence of a criminal act it was regarded as an aggravating feature of the offence. The penalty should reflect public disquiet at the unnecessary loss of life.

Cost cutting was a crucial factor in achieving a competitive edge. A deliberate breach of the health and safety legislation with a view to profit seriously aggravated the offence.

There was some evidence that safety standards in small organisations might generally be lower than in larger ones. It should be

emphasised that the standard of care imposed by the legislation was the same; the size of a company and its financial strength or weakness could not affect the degree of care that was required in matters of safety.

Other matters that might be relevant to sentence were the degree of risk and extent of the danger created by the offence; the extent of the breach or breaches, for example whether it was an isolated incident or continued over a period; and, importantly, the defendant's resources and the effect of the fine on its business.

Particular aggravating features would include (i) a failure to heed warnings and (ii) where the defendant had deliberately profited financially from a failure to take necessary health and safety steps or specifically run a risk to save money.

Particular mitigating features would include (i) prompt admission of responsibility and a timely plea of guilty, (ii) steps to remedy deficiencies after they were drawn to the defendant's attention and (iii) a good safety record.

Any fine should reflect not only the gravity of the offence but also the means of the offender. That applied just as much to corporate defendants as to any other: see section 18(3) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

Difficulty was sometimes found in obtaining timely and accurate information about a corporate defendant's means. The starting point was its annual accounts. Usually accounts needed to be considered with some care to avoid reaching a superficial and perhaps erroneous conclusion.

Where accounts or other financial information were deliberately not supplied, the court would be entitled to conclude that the company was in a position to pay any financial penalty it was minded to impose.

The objective of prosecutions for

health and safety offences in the work place was to achieve a safe environment for those who worked there and for other members of the public who might be affected.

Where the defendant was a company, a fine needed to be large enough to bring the message home, not only to those who managed it but also to its shareholders.

In the present case, in their Lordships' judgment there appeared to have been a flagrant disregard for the safety of the company's employees. Careers were cut and no real attention was paid to electrical safety.

The case had come before the crown court because the magistrates, following submissions by the prosecution, had declined jurisdiction. They were right to do so. This was a bad case involving a fatality.

In their Lordships' judgment magistrates should always think carefully before accepting jurisdiction in health and safety at work cases, where it was arguable that the fine might exceed the limit of their jurisdiction or where death or serious injury had resulted from the offence.

However, in their Lordships' judgment the judge in the present case gave inadequate weight to the financial position of the appellant. It might well be that he did so because such information as he had was not supplied until the very last moment.

But this was a small company with limited resources. Neither the fine nor the costs were deductible against tax, and therefore the full burden fell upon the company.

In the circumstances the appropriate fine was one totalling £15,000, thus the total financial burden on the appellant was reduced from £55,500 to £22,500.

Solicitors: Cartwrights, Bristol; Solicitor, Health and Safety Executive.

Regina v Independent Television Commission, Ex parte Flextech plc and Others

Before Mr Justice Maurice Kay
[Judgment November 6]

The Independent Television Commission, as a regulatory body concerned with the provision of programme services, had the power under section 2(2) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 to prohibit clauses in carriage agreements which they considered to be inconsistent with fair and effective competition.

Where, therefore, the provision of a particular service could only be purchased as part of a package of other services, some of which might be unwanted, at a price which reflected the whole package, that affected the availability of the service and accordingly the ITC's duty under section 2(2)(b) of the 1990 Act to act to ensure a wide range of services was available did extend to regulating the terms of any existing services were offered to viewers.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review of the decision of the ITC on June 26, 1998, inter alia, prohibiting the licensee from entering into or seeking to enforce or observe any contract or contractual term which had the effect, either directly or indirectly, of preventing subscribers from buying on an à la carte basis from any package of basic channels any premium channel available to the licensee.

The decision provided that any premium channel offered by the licensee to subscribers was to be made on an à la carte basis in combination with any package of basic channels.

Flextech plc and Sci-Fi Channel Europe LLC were channel providers, who entered into carriage agreements with British Sky Broadcasting Ltd and with cable operators in order to distribute their television services and obtain access to pay television subscribers.

Pay TV channels were delivered for home reception by satellite through BSkyB or by cable transmission through cable operators. Basic channels were sold to subscribers as part of a basic tier for which the retailer was charged a single retail price. Generally subscribers had to buy a tier or bundle of a substantial number of basic channels which were not available individually or à la carte.

Premium channels were sold individually on an à la carte basis at a price per channel, being a higher price than for basic channels, or as part of a small bundle of channels. "Buy through" arrangements existed whereby subscribers were not able to purchase premium channels without purchasing a number of basic channels.

Minimum carriage requirements were an arrangement whereby by carriage agreements between channel providers selling basic channels and their carriers contained a clause under which the carrier agreed to distribute such

channels to a predetermined proportion of the carrier's total number of subscribers.

Flextech and Sci-Fi held licences issued by the ITC, as did BSkyB and the cable operators.

By section 4(1)(a) of the 1990 Act, a licence granted by the ITC could include such conditions as appeared to the commission to be appropriate. Section 4(2)(a) stated that a licensee could include conditions requiring the licensee holder to comply with any direction given by the commission as to matters regarding the licence.

Licensees granted by the ITC included conditions 9 and 12 which, inter alia, required the licensee to comply with the directions, including directions issued for the purpose of ensuring fair and effective competition.

The ITC defined minimum carriage requirements as any contractual term which by itself or in conjunction with other terms in the same or similar contracts, had the effect, either directly or indirectly, of preventing, restricting or distorting a distributor's ability to develop markets and retail packages of basic channels offered to a group of subscribers in the UK.

The ITC had statutory duties which included the duty under section 2(2) of the Broadcasting Act 1990: (a) to discharge their functions... as respects the licensing of... services... in the manner which they consider is best calculated (i) to ensure that a wide range of such services is available throughout the United Kingdom, and (ii) to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of such services and services connected with them.

Flextech and Sci-Fi sought judicial review of the June 26 decision on the grounds, inter alia, that the ITC did not have power under section 2(2) of the 1990 Act to interfere with existing contractual rights, alternatively that they had abused that power; nor did they have the power to prohibit minimum carriage requirements, alternatively, that their definition of minimum carriage requirements was void for uncertainty.

BSkyB, Cable and Wireless

Communications plc and NTL Inc were interested parties.

Ms Presley Baxendale, QC and Ms Monica Cars-Frisk for Flextech and Sci-Fi; Mr Duncan Ouseley, QC and Ms Dinah Rose for ITC; Mr Nicholas Green, QC and Mr Michael Fordham for BSkyB; Mr Robert Anderson for Cable and Wireless and NTL.

MR JUSTICE MAURICE KAY said that ITC sought to resist every challenge on the merits.

Interference with existing contractual rights

His Lordship agreed with Mr Ouseley's submissions that the provisions in the 1990 Act were clear and unambiguous and were not obscure or productive of absurdity.

The ITC had the function of regulating the provision of certain services: see section 2(1). In discharging that function they had a duty to ensure that a wide range of services was available and to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of such services: section 2(2)(a).

That function overlapped with those of other competition authorities: section 2(3). Regulation was carried out at least in part by a system of licensing: sections 2(2)(a) and 3.

Licensees could include conditions which appeared to the ITC to be appropriate, having regard to their duties, and could include conditions requiring the licensee holder to comply with any direction given by the ITC as to such matters as were specified in the licence; and, pursuant to those provisions, the licences in the present case included conditions 9 and 12.

The statutory provisions were clear and unambiguous. The ITC's decision was not unlawful.

Scope of section 2(2)(a)(i)

In his Lordship's judgment, a body charged with the duty of ensuring that a wide range of services was available was fully entitled to concern itself with the basis upon which those services were made available.

If a particular service could only be purchased as part of a package with other services, at least some of which might be unwanted, and at a price which reflected the whole

package, those were matters which went towards the availability of the particular service.

His Lordship was satisfied that regarding the extent to which the ITC had relied upon section 2(2)(a)(i) they were acting intra vires. The fact that some other regulatory statutes in other sectors defined the functions, powers, and duties of regulators differently or more extensively was not in point.

The ITC had a duty to act in the manner which they considered was best calculated to ensure that a wide range of services was available and they were entitled to consider that the prohibition contained in the decision would improve the availability of services.

Scope of section 2(2)(a)(ii)

His Lordship said that section 2(2)(a)(ii) conferred a wide power to ensure fair and effective competition. It was not limited by the fact that the Director General for Fair Trading, the Secretary of State and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had concurrent competition powers.

Parliament had provided special, sectoral competition powers which could be used in a more specific and less cumbersome way. They were not immune from judicial review but such review would generally be on *Wednesbury* grounds of unreasonableness (1948) 1 KB 223 rather than on the basis of an inappropriately narrow and artificial construction of the Act.

Certainty

In his Lordship's judgment the wide definition of minimum carriage requirements was justified for anti-avoidance reasons. In common with many other regulatory provisions, particularly in the sphere of competition, it was directed at effects.

Its application would require judgment at various levels but its wording was not such as to be hindered by legal uncertainty. Nor was the adoption of the wording *Wednesbury* unreasonable.

For those and other reasons the application was refused.

Solicitors: Denton Hall; Simmons & Simmons; Herbert Smith; Charles Russell.

Libel can be sued in many jurisdictions

Berezovsky and Another v Forbes Inc and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice May and Sir John Knox
[Judgment November 19]

An alleged libel published in more than one country could give rise to a cause of action in each country in which the victim was known and in which he claimed to have suffered injury. It could not be treated as giving rise to a single cause of action the trial of which the court could decide the most appropriate forum having regard to where the global cause of action arose.

The plaintiffs, Russian nationalists suing a magazine published in the United States with an English circulation of 2,000, had established close connections with England and were entitled to sue here.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Boris Berezovsky and Nikolai Gloukhov against a decision of Mr Justice

Popplewell (The Times January 19, 1998) granting an application under Order 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for a stay of their libel action against the defendants, Forbes Inc and James W. Michaels.

Mr James Price, QC, for the plaintiffs; Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC, and Miss Heather Rogers for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the plaintiffs' evidence before the judge of their connections with England had been very significantly amplified in further evidence which placed the strength of Mr Berezovsky's connections beyond doubt and showed that those of Mr Gloukhov were more than merely tenuous as the judge had held.

In *Shevill v Presse Alliance* (Case C-68/93) (1995) 2 AC 18, the European Court of Justice had determined that in the case of an international libel through the press,

the injury caused by a defamatory publication to the good name of a person occurred in the place where the publication was distributed, when the victim was known in those places.

Mr Price had relied on *The Albion* (1984) 2 Lloyd's LR 91 and *Schapiro v Alkonson* (unreported, March 21, 1997) in which the Court of Appeal had refused to stay an action based on English publication of an article in a Hebrew newspaper printed in Israel, treating the English publication as a separate segment.

Mr Robertson had submitted that the correct approach was to treat multi-jurisdiction cases as giving rise to a single cause of action, and then to ascertain where the global cause of action arose.

Mr Robertson's underlying but unspoken assumption was that in defamation cases a plaintiff who had been defamed in a number of separate jurisdictions was confined to a single action in only one of those jurisdictions.

That approach was inconsistent with the basic principle that each publication was a separate act and with the approach of the Court of Appeal in *Schapiro v Alkonson*. It would disable the plaintiff from seeking in appropriate cases an injunction in all but the one country where he was obliged to sue.

But plaintiffs had established that England was the natural forum where the actions had their most real and substantial connection and where the case could most suitably be tried for the interests of all the parties and for the ends of justice, thus satisfying the *Spiliada* Maritime Corporation v Cansulex Ltd (1987) AC 460 in an Order 11 case.

Lord Justice May and Sir John Knox agreed.

Solicitors: Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners; Sidde & Co.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 33 - Putting it into Practice

There have been several lessons now where I have concentrated on the bidding and before that, in MiniBridge, there was play but no bidding. Now it is time for a full hand.

You pick up as South:

♠ AQ ♥ K432 ♦ AJ108 ♣ J73

You count up your points, which come to 15 - too many for a 12-14 One No-Trump. As I said last week, when you have a balanced hand too strong for One No-Trump you choose a four-card major if possible, so here you open One Heart. Your partner responds Two Clubs, showing at least four clubs and at least 9 HCP (more on that in the next few weeks). So now you rebid Two No-Trump, showing 15-16 HCP, and your partner raises you to Three No-Trump.

West leads the five of spades and your partner puts down the dummy.

♠ J108
♥ 87
♦ K983
♣ AKQ8

♠ K9784
♥ A1087
♦ 64
♣ 62

♠ J108
♥ 87
♦ K983
♣ AKQ8

♠ K9784
♥ A1087
♦ 64
♣ 62

♠ J108
♥ 87
♦ K983
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♣ 62

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Youngest champion

To launch The Times Kasparov Chess Challenge, I will be devoting this week to classic games by the champion. Today's game is possibly Kasparov's best known.

It was a tense and complicated battle, ultimate victory in which made him, at 22, the youngest world champion.

White: Anatoly Karpov

Black: Garry Kasparov

World championship Moscow 1985

Sicilian Defence

1. e4 c5

2. Nf3 c6

3. d4 cxd4

4. Nxd4 Nf6

5. Nc3 e6

6. Be2 e7

7. O-O Be7

8. Kf1 Qc7

9. Nf1 Nc6

10. d4 Nxd4

11. Bc3 Nf6

12. Bb3 Nf6

13. Qd2 Bg7

14. Nc3 e5

15. g4 Bc8

16. e5 Nf7

17. Qf2 Bf8

18. Bg2 Bg7

19. Nxd1 g6

20. Bc1 Nf6

21. Nc3 Nd4

22. Nf3 Bg7

23. Be3 Re7

24. Kf1 Re8

25. Rd1 f5

26. Bf6 Nf6

27. Bg3 Rf7

28. Bbb6 Qf6

29. Be3 Nf5

30. Rg4 Nf6

31. Rf4 g5

32. Qg2 Nf6

33. Qd2 Nf6

34. Qa3 Nf6

35. Qf6 Bf8

36. Rd6 Re7

37. Qa6 Rb3

38. Rb6 Rb3

39. Qa4 Nf6

40. e5 Qe7

41. Nf3 Bg2

42. Nf2 Nf6

43. Nf2 Nf6

44. Nf2 Nf6

45. Nf2 Nf6

46. Nf2 Nf6

47. Nf2 Nf6

48. Nf2 Nf6

49. Nf2 Nf6

50. Nf2 Nf6

51. Nf2 Nf6

52. Nf2 Nf6

53. Nf2 Nf6

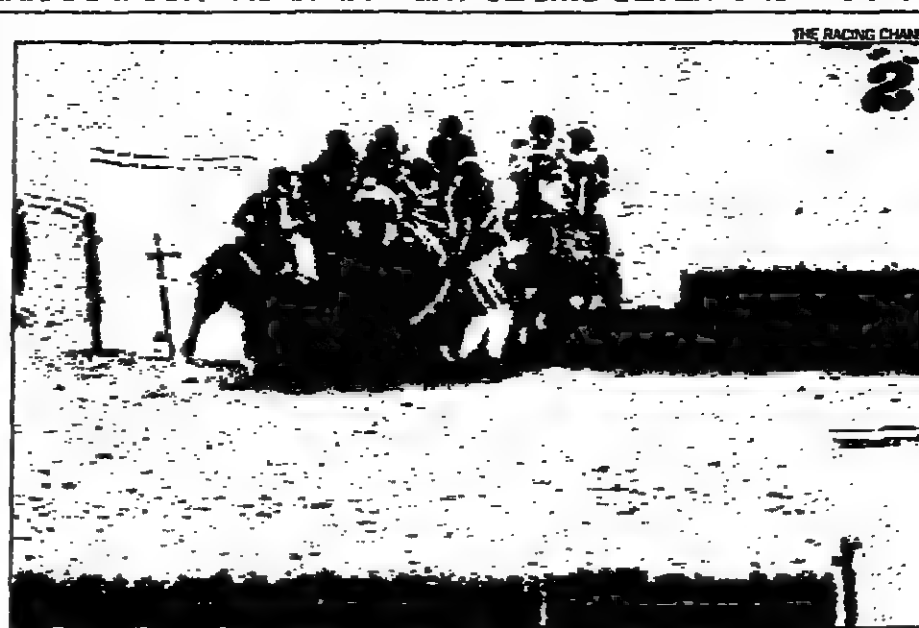
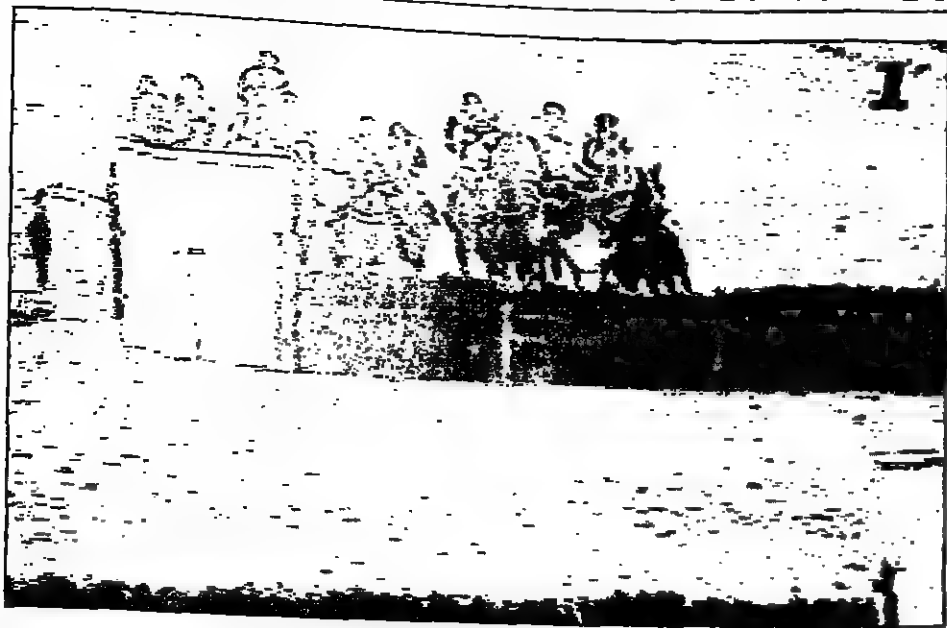
54. Nf2 Nf6

55. Nf2 Nf6

56. Nf2 Nf6

5

RACING: RIDERS AND HORSES FORTUNATE TO ESCAPE SERIOUS INJURY AS ONE FLIGHT CLAIMS SEVEN CASUALTIES



Trouble looms at the third flight in the selling hurdle at Taunton yesterday when the leader, Ivory Charm, swerves violently, unsettling her rider and removing another six of the 11 runners in the process. More mayhem followed as the riderless horses careered across the track, interfering with the survivors, but The Robe managed to steer a winning course

Shades of Foinavon in Taunton m  le

WHOM the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad. Then they issue them with a licence to ride under National Hunt rules. Rarely can the unfurling heroism of jump jockeys have been examined in such heart-stopping fashion as at Taunton yesterday, when a seven-horse pile-up prompted memories of Foinavon - an earnest gratitude that nobody was more seriously injured.

Foinavon's victory is treated as a tribute to the unique perils of the Grand National, but yesterday's drama emphasised that these men of iron (and women, too) face such dangers as a matter of daily routine. It came in the Maple Valley Selling Hurdle, as lowly a contrast to the glamour of Aintree as can be imagined.

As the 11 runners approached the third flight, Ivory Charm jinked wildly to the left - flinging Daragh O'Driscoll, her inexperienced partner, into the take-off side of the timber obstacle - and swung over it sideways-on. She landed in a sprawl that only the aptly-named Trouble In Store and three others could avoid.

The rest flowed helplessly into the m  le, like the thrashing production line of some nightmarish factory. As horse after horse crashed into the ground, six jockeys were lost among the rolling bodies and falling legs; as the horses rose, marvellously unscathed, their riders lay winded and flattened in the grass.

Nor was the danger over for those who had contrived to avoid the chaos. Ballykissann and then Trouble In Store were almost carried out by loose horses; then, as Warren Marston, and The Robe led the survivors past the doled-off obstacle second time round, into the home straight, panic gripped the stands. Four horses, enjoying their sudden liberty, were galloping playfully up the straight - in the wrong direction.

Perhaps the most mercurial stroke of luck to sustain this unfeasible series of escapes was the decision of these horses, halfway up the run-in, to turn round and join The Robe. Marston, who had steered to the right, was fortunate not to be forced over the final fence on the chase course.

As it was, the medical consequences were somehow restricted to "a few days" on the sidelines for Jim Culley, who bruised a hip; wrist X-rays and a stitched lip for Jamie Magee; and the afternoon off for Rodney Farrant, who captured the indomitable spirit of his profession by saying: "I'm bruised all the way down my left side, but fingers crossed I'll be okay for Bangor tomorrow."

It is hard to conceive of a greater contrast on the turf than that between these dramas and Sunday's Japan Cup, where Frankie Dettori and Faithful Sun try to round off another remarkable year of international achievement for Godolphin.

Faithful Sun is expected to be suited by the return to a mile and a half, having failed to stay in the Melbourne Cup, but Simon Crisford travels from Dubai in hope rather than expectation. "The horse has had a hard campaign and a tough travel schedule," Godolphin's racing manager said yesterday. "Any weak links are going to be exposed pretty quickly in a race like this. To win it, he'll have to be every bit as good as when he won at Royal Ascot and came second in the Eclipse. The ground is very firm, too. But he certainly deserves to take his chance, because his form is very good and he showed that the trip is okay for him in the Caulfield Cup."

Other overseas raiders for a race plundered last year by Filisidius include Chief Bearhart, the Canadian who mounted such a gallant defence of the Breeders' Cup Turf 20 days ago, and Luso.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

1.20 Prussia. 1.50 Shore Party. 2.20 Northern Maestro. 2.50 Welsh March. 3.20 Out By Night. 3.50 Powder Hound.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.20 EYTON SELLING HURDLE
(£2,295; 2m 110y) (11 runners)

1-125 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88
1-126 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88
1-127 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88
1-128 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88
1-129 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88
1-130 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88
1-131 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88
1-132 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88
1-133 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88
1-134 MURLEY MEMORY 21 (J) A. Steele 5-11-7. J. Johnson 88

1.50 MALISE NICOLSON NOVICES CHASE
(£3,534; 3m 110y) (6 runners)

1-135 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-136 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-137 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-138 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-139 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-140 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-141 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-142 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-143 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-144 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

2.20 TOTE PLACEPOT 21ST BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,788; 2m 110y) (9 runners)

1-145 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-146 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-147 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-148 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-149 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-150 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-151 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-152 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-153 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-154 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

2.50 MORRIS NICHOLSON CARTWRIGHT HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,879; 2m 410y) (8 runners)

1-155 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-156 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-157 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-158 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-159 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-160 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-161 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-162 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-163 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-164 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

3.20 LIANARRON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,598; 2m 410y) (6 runners)

1-165 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-166 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-167 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-168 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-169 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-170 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-171 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-172 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-173 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-174 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

3.50 RIDGWAY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,784; 2m 110y) (12 runners)

1-175 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-176 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-177 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-178 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-179 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-180 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-181 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-182 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-183 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-184 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

4.00 RICHMOND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,784; 2m 110y) (12 runners)

1-185 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-186 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-187 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-188 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-189 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-190 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-191 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-192 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-193 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-194 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

2.50 MORRIS NICHOLSON CARTWRIGHT HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,879; 2m 410y) (8 runners)

1-155 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-156 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-157 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-158 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-159 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-160 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-161 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-162 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-163 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-164 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

3.20 LIANARRON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,598; 2m 410y) (6 runners)

1-165 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-166 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-167 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-168 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-169 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-170 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-171 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-172 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-173 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-174 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

3.50 RIDGWAY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,784; 2m 110y) (12 runners)

1-175 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-176 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-177 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-178 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-179 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-180 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-181 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-182 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-183 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-184 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

4.00 RICHMOND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,784; 2m 110y) (12 runners)

1-185 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-186 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-187 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-188 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-189 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-190 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-191 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-192 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-193 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-194 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

4.30 RICHMOND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,784; 2m 110y) (12 runners)

1-195 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-196 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-197 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-198 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-199 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-200 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-201 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-202 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-203 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-204 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

4.50 RICHMOND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,784; 2m 110y) (12 runners)

1-205 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-206 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-207 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-208 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-209 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-210 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-211 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-212 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-213 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-214 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

5.00 RICHMOND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,784; 2m 110y) (12 runners)

1-215 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-216 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-217 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-218 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-219 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-220 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-221 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-222 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-223 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-224 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

5.30 RICHMOND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,784; 2m 110y) (12 runners)

1-225 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-226 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-227 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-228 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-229 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-230 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-231 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-232 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-233 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-234 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

Sagamix in line for World Cup

SAGAMIX, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, may put his unbeaten record on the line in the Dubai World Cup (Chris McGrath writes).

His four victories have all been in soft ground over a mile and a half, whereas the World Cup is over ten furlongs on dirt. A similar gamble almost paid off in this year's race, however, when Swain forced a photo-finish with Silver Charm. Sagamix's trainer, Adrien Fabre, saddled Loup Sauvage to finish third. The World Cup has lived up to its ambitious billing by producing three authentic champions from three runnings in Cigar, Singelisp and Silver Charm. Bob Baffert has indicated that Silver Charm, runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Classic last time, may defend the prize on March 28, while Might And Power has been nominated from Australia.

Godolphin has a number of possible candidates for a "home" win, including High-Rise, its newly recruited Derby winner.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.10 Salva Boulevard. 12.40 Pegasus Bay. 1.10 Outlook Lane. 1.40 Cantagayoubreath. 2.10 Sweet Compliance. 2.40 Riff. 3.10 Dancing Wolf. 3.40 Ginzbourg.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M. LOW BEST SIS

12.10 CONFERENCE STAGING MAIDEN STAKES
(Div 1: £1,901; 1m) (9 runners)

1-1000 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1001 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1002 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1003 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1004 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1005 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1006 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1007 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1008 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1009 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

2.40 SOUTHERN TOOLS & FIXINGS 15TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP
(£3,583; 1m 410y) (14 runners)

1-1010 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1011 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1012 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1013 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1014 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1015 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1016 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1017 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1018 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1019 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

12.40 LINGFIELD LOYALTY CARDS SELLING STAKES
(Div 1: £1,901; 1m 20y) (14 runners)

1-1020 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1021 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1022 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1023 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1024 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1025 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1026 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1027 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1028 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1029 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

1.10 LINGFIELD LOYALTY CARDS SELLING STAKES
(Div 1: £1,901; 1m 20y) (13 runners)

1-1030 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1031 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1032 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1033 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
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1-1038 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1039 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

1.40 ANTIQUE FAIRS AT LINGFIELD HORSE STAKES
(Div 1: £1,901; 1m 20y) (13 runners)

1-1040 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1041 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1042 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
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1-1048 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1049 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

3.40 BUY LINGFIELD POUNDS FOR CHRISTMAS APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£1,946; 1m 410y) (16 runners)

1-1050 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1051 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-1052 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
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1-1059 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

THUNDERER

1.00 Door To Door. 2.30 Virasoo. 3.00 SHADIANN (nap). 3.30 Mothers Help.

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 SERENUS.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.00 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICES HURDLE
(£4,033; 3m 110y) (9 runners)

1-101 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-102 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-103 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-104 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-105 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
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1-107 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
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1-109 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-110 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88

1.30 OXFORDSHIRE NOVICES CHASE
(£4,796; 3m) (4 runners)

1-111 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-112 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-113 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-114 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-115 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-116 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-117 SHORE PARTY 14 (J) S. M. Tregon 5-11-5. M. Tregon 88
1-118 SHORE PARTY

CRICKET

West Indies dig deep after initial struggle

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN JOHANNESBURG

THE WANDERERS (first day of five; West Indies won toss): West Indies have scored 249 for seven wickets against South Africa

WEST INDIES were indebted to an innings of typical grit and resolve from Shivnarine Chanderpaul to deflect attention once again from matters off the field, after a rampant Shaun Pollock had threatened to make their first day of Test cricket in South Africa one that they would wish to forget.

A day of immense historical importance at The Wanderers could scarcely have begun on a less auspicious note. First, Pat Rousseau, president of the West Indies Cricket Board, recounted the events of two days ago when, with his wife and a Jamaican journalist, he was robbed at gunpoint as he visited a cricket ground in Soweto. Shortly afterwards came a statement by Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, expressing his disappointment that "no players of colour had been selected to represent South Africa".

The West Indies sprung a surprise by naming Rawl Lewis, the leg spinner, in their side. Lewis had arrived in Johannesburg as a replace-



Chanderpaul gritty

ment for the injured Dinanath Ramnarine at 7.30 yesterday morning, somewhat less than fresh after an overnight flight from Bombay, where he had been touring with the A team.

By winning the toss, Brian Lara was able to elect to bat first, allowing Lewis time to rest. There is nothing restful, however, in an opening partnership between Clayton Lambert and Philo Wallace. Within eight overs and after a flurry of drives and pulls, both batsmen had been dismissed by Pollock. Lambert aimed a cavalier swipe and edged behind; Wallace lost his off stump prodding forward.



Lara, the West Indies captain, is comprehensively bowled by Pollock after winning the toss and electing to bat

Lara briefly suggested the occasion would be marked by an innings of majesty. Before he had time to settle, however, he was bowled by Pollock off an inside edge, tentatively pushing forward.

Had Pollock, who boasted figures of three for 14 at this stage, soon afterwards been able to take a difficult caught-and-bowled chance off Carl Hooper before he had scored, there is every chance that West Indies' batting would have capitulated.

The chance went to ground and, in the next 31 overs, Hooper, batting for most of the time with a runner after damaging a groin when he slipped playing forward defensively to Kallis, and Chanderpaul added 91 runs.

The secret to Chanderpaul's success is a simple one. He is West Indies' most adhesive batsman and plays strictly within his limitations. When the ball was drifting marginally down the leg side, he would step across and help it on its way to fine leg. When the bowlers overpitched, he opted to

drive to the off-side boundary. A square-driven four off Allan Donald took him to his sixteenth Test half-century in 124 balls.

By that stage, though, Hooper had departed, well caught at slip by Cullinan off Donald, and Chanderpaul went into his shell. His next 86 balls brought him only 24 runs before, playing back, he was leg-before to Donald.

Hooper's willingness to take on Donald was entertainment in itself and, four times in two overs, he dispatched him to the boundary. A lazy stroke, though, cost him his wicket.

Stuart Williams, originally chosen in the West Indies squad as the third opener, batted resolutely in scoring 35 at No 6 before becoming David Terbrugge's first Test victim, and the new ball accounted for Ridley Jacobs, caught at mid-wicket pulling at Kallis, but not before he and Nixon McLean had added 37. Lewis kept McLean company to the close as West Indies, who mostly underperformed, began to struggle free.

Brotherly love lost in Kentish towns

THE Band of Brothers, the wandering club that has had a considerable influence over decision-making within Kent cricket, has been cited by a long-serving former player as responsible for the dismissal of Steve Marsh from the captaincy last month (two Tenants' rights).

Wilson, who played for Kent in the 1950s and 1960s, did not attend the meeting of the cricket committee on account of being Marsh's father-in-law. He has resigned, criticising what he perceived to be outside pressure.

David Kemp, the chairman of Kent, said: "To suggest the Band of Brothers is behind this change and that there is a split is ludicrous. Steve has said he would be happy to play under Matthew Fleming. It is rare for county captains to serve for more than three years now. The job seems to be more pressurised."

Southgate, who are second and were beaten 2-0 by Can- nock last week, know that they must not concede possession easily through sloppy passing against a team that is strong in firepower. In seven matches, Canterbury have scored 32 goals compared with 20 by Southgate. Each side has conceded 13.

Cannock, the title-holders, visit East Grinstead, who had mixed fortunes in a double-header programme last weekend. A 6-4 victory over Teddington was followed by a 4-3 defeat at Bournville.

Reading, who picked up only one point from their two matches, are hoping to restore their fortunes in a home match against Old Loughtonians, for whom Scott-Smith, a Canadian centre forward, is the season's leading scorer with 14 goals.

Kerly back to haunt his former colleagues

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

SEAN KERLY reflected yesterday on the period when he was a key figure in Southgate's successes. Fresh from his Olympic gold-medal triumph in Seoul in 1988, the high-scoring centre forward helped Southgate to win the National League title in their inaugural year. Earlier, with his assistance, they won the National Club Championship, now known as the EHA Cup, five times between 1982 and 1988.

Now, as manager of Canterbury, Kerly takes his unbeaten team and league leaders to his old club on Sunday for a key match in the National League premier division. "This is an important game and, if we win, it will put a lot of space between ourselves and the other teams in the top four," he said.

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Guildford are attempting to pick up the pieces this week after their 9-1 trouncing by Teddington last Sunday. This weekend they are at home to Bournville and Ian Jennings, their player-coach said: "We are back in the war zone. Someone has got to pay for our embarrassment."

Doncaster prepare for testing period

By CATHY HARRIS

IT IS bad enough fighting a perennial struggle against relegation, but Doncaster approach their midwinter break with tough matches against Hightown, their northern rivals, and a rescheduled match against Slough, the Women's National League premier division champions, on Sunday.

The good news is they are not propping up the table. Raye Allen, the manager, thinks that the Yorkshire team is playing well. "We've given a good account of ourselves, only to concede goals at silly times," she said.

One point separates Doncaster from Sutton Coldfield at the bottom and the club has no local source of promising young players. Allen said: "The nearest good hockey school is an hour away. We'd love to be able to draw on a wealth of local talent."

Claire Ferguson, the captain and striker, and Karen O'Neill, a defender, are respected stalwarts, while Janelle Lowe, the midfield player, is turning in much-improved displays. One useful acquisition is Sally Wright, a Leeds University student and England Under-21 player.

Allen confesses that team spirit and good old Yorkshire grit helps to keep the side in the top flight. The thought of challenging the top four is a luxury, she says. "It's exciting taking on the best, but we're also under continual pressure to maintain our status."

Boosted by the sponsorship of Apollo Travel, the team can at least count on travel expenses being met. After entertaining Hightown, they head down the M1 to Southgate, where they meet Slough. The champions are still smarting after suffering their first defeat in 20 months when they lost to Ipswich last week. "It will be a matter of hard work and some luck," Allen said.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE WANDERERS

WEST INDIES: First Innings
C B Lambert b Pollock... 8
P A Wallace b Pollock... 16
S C Chanderpaul b Donald... 74
C L Hooper c Cullinan b Donald... 44
S C Williams c Cornie b Terbrugge... 35
P D Jacobs c Cornie b Kallis... 14
N A M McLean not out... 23
R N Lewis not out... 11
Beverly (lb w, 2, no 5)... 13
Total (7 wickets)... 249
C E L Ambrose and G A Walsh to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-24, 3-41, 4-132, 5-177, 6-198, 7-235.
BOWLING: Donald 20-3-83-2; Pollock 25-4-81-3; Kallis 18-5-37-1; Terbrugge 16-5-38-1; Cornie 1-0-0-0; Symcox 18-4-37-0.
SOUTH AFRICA: G Krieger, A M Bacher, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, W J Cronje, J N Rennie, S M Pollock, M V Boucher, S L Symcox, A A Donald, D J Terbrugge.
Umpires: C J Mitchell (South Africa) and D R Shepherd (England).

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THE TIMES

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SKI FACTS Number of downhill runs 25. Beginners 33%; intermediate 65%; advanced 12%.

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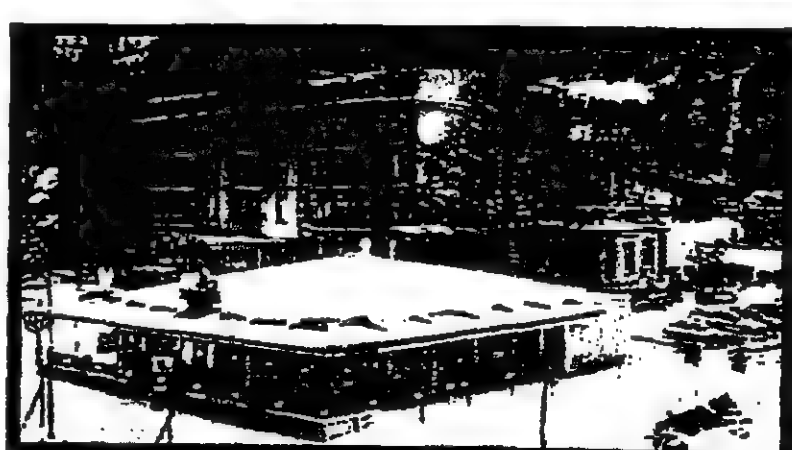
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- Farewell party
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CHANGING TIMES

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THE TIMES
SNOOKER
Harold
continues
to rack
up points

NETBALL

Late rally
hope for f

By CATHY HARRIS

THE England netball team could wrap up their campaign with a victory over Scotland in the final of the Commonwealth Games on Wednesday. England, who were defeated by Scotland in the semi-final, are looking to secure a place in the final of the Commonwealth Games netball tournament. The match is scheduled for Wednesday evening at the MCG in Melbourne. England's captain, Rachel Perry, is hoping for a late rally to secure the win. "We've been under a lot of pressure, but we're determined to win this one," she said. The match is expected to be a closely contested affair, with both teams showing strong defensive play. England's attack, led by Rachel Perry, has been the key to their success in the tournament so far. They have scored 10 goals in their three matches, while conceding only two. Scotland, on the other hand, have scored 12 goals but have also conceded 10. The match is expected to be a tactical battle, with both teams looking to control the tempo of the game. England's strategy is to keep the ball in play and create opportunities for their attackers. Scotland's strategy is to apply high pressure and force errors from the England players. The match is expected to be a high-scoring affair, with both teams looking to score in the final minutes of the game. The winner of the match will advance to the final of the Commonwealth Games netball tournament. The final is scheduled for Thursday evening at the MCG in Melbourne. England's opponent in the final is yet to be determined. The match is expected to be a highly competitive one, with both teams looking to secure the title. The Commonwealth Games netball tournament is one of the most prestigious events in the sport. It attracts the best players from across the Commonwealth and is a major source of pride for the participating nations. The England netball team has a strong chance of winning the title, but they will need to perform at their best to do so. The match is expected to be a thrilling one, with plenty of action and drama. It is a must-watch for netball fans everywhere.

BASKETBALL

ENGLAND LEAD ONE POINT
DR MANTON
SCORES 12
FA PREMIER
NICKLAS LEA
AVON BRUNN
SCORES 12
PORTER'S
SCORES 12
CRICKET
SCORES 12
FOOTBALL
SCORES 12

HOCKEY

Doncaster prepare for testing period

By Cathy Harris

IT IS bad enough fighting a perennial relegation battle, but Doncaster have to approach their midweek break with tough matches against Highbury, their most recent rivals, and a rescheduled match against Slough, the Women's National League premier division champions on Sunday.

The good news is they are not dropping up the table. Kaye Allen, the manager, thinks that the Yorkshire team is playing well, but given a good account of itself, only to concede goals at the last moment.

One point separates Doncaster from Sutton Coldfield at the bottom and the club's manager, Kaye Allen, is a source of local talent.

Allen, 39, is a former player and a striker, and has been at Doncaster since 1994. He has a reputation for being a tough taskmaster, and his team has been in the relegation zone for much of the season.

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SNOOKER

Harold continues to rack up points

By Phil Yates

REFRESHED after a month-long honeymoon at the World Cup in France, Dave Harold has been the most consistent player this season. His haul of world-ranking points continued to build yesterday when he defeated Fergal O'Brien 4-1 in the quarter-finals of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Bournemouth.

Harold, a Stoke City season-ticket holder, has been unable to participate in his team's promotion drive lately as he has reached the latter stages of three consecutive events. He also reached the semi-finals of the Grand Prix and was runner-up to David Gray in the Benson and Hedges championship.

In overcoming O'Brien, a stubborn Dubliner who eliminated Ken Doherty unexpectedly in the last 16, Harold compiled breaks of 64, 53, 72 and 67 but, more crucially, snatched three frames on the black, one after requiring a snooker.

Harold won the 1993 Asian Open in Bangkok as a 500-1 outsider and figured in the Skoda Grand Prix final the following year, but his career was in decline until he employed Mike Smith, a long-time friend and competent player himself, as his coach.

"When you do everything on your own, this can be a lonely game," Harold said. "Mike and myself have linked around with a few technical things, but he's more valuable to me as a confidant."

Harold will meet Matthew Couch or Matthew Stevens in the semi-finals, while John Higgins seems destined to play Paul Hunter, who led Steve Davis 7-1 at the end of a steady one-sided session in which the six-times world champion performed poorly.



Angelopoulos, pictured celebrating winning the 2004 Olympic Games for Athens, was typically persuasive when taking to the rostrum yesterday

Woman's touch wins the day

Rob Hughes reports on the contrast provided by two lofty individuals with similarly ambitious goals

Those who still believe that this is a man's world could not have been listening attentively in Huntingdon where 220 leaders of sport yesterday continued the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) conference on "Britain: A Player on the World Stage".

The question is rhetorical, the decline of British influence obvious. We gave away the ball, and struggle to get it back; we lost administrative control, and are left begging for a turn to stage global events. And within a single session at Huntingdon, as Gianna Angelopoulos followed Tony Banks onto the rostrum, the contrast in style and substance was beguiling.

A rough diamond from the East End of London, a smooth lady from the Greek Islands. A man not to be underestimated in his determination or his willingness to, as he put it, "kick arse" to get Britain into sporting shape; a woman who speaks with the benefit of legal training and Harvard grooming, and who combines motherhood with helping to run her husband's shipping company.

Banks makes no bones about it. He is willing to bet that England will stage the 2006 World Cup and is working to bring the 2012 Olympics to the same, as yet not rebuilt, Wembley Stadium. He is a wannabe. Angelopoulos is a winner. As she entered the conference hall, Banks was in full flow, hectoring the CCPR membership for being predominantly white and male.

"I'm not prepared to tolerate the terrible imbalance, the waste of resources of ethnic minorities and women," he said, "things will change at the highest levels quicker than you can imagine."

Banks begins to interview candidates for the chair of the English Sports Council next Tuesday. The smart money is on a woman. He has been given approval to form a "Sports Cabinet" to harness across the board political will behind a one-nation sporting approach.

Banks spoke of dining this week with Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president, and meeting Julio Grondona, a FIFA vice-president. Samaranch apparently encouraged the thought that the Olympics need Britain and that 2012 might be a favourable time to stage them

in London, and Grondona is among 24 men who will decide the destination of the 2006 World Cup. Effectively, Banks said: "I'm pitching for Britain, get behind me and everything is possible."

Angelopoulos was persuasive. A year ago she visited 27 countries to seek votes for Athens. "Our bid for the centenary Games was devastated because it was based too much on emotion and heritage," she said. "We never proved that Athens was ready. But there was no resting on our laurels, we bid again with a four-part strategy."

This strategy included tackling the problems of infrastructure: cultivating support within and outside Athens; leadership and teamwork; and a disciplined focus to the goal of winning the Games for Greece.

One month before the vote in Lausanne, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) staged its world athletics championships in Athens. "That distinguished and charming IAAF president [Primo Nebiolo] came," Angelopoulos said. "People were trying to provoke us, hoping we would react to criticism in unbecomingly ways. They aimed their criticism at our pride to see what meant more to us — our ego or our aims. We tormented them with our good humour, our smile, our silence."

The message is that the IOC responds to discretion. "You in the UK understand better than anyone else the value of combining traditional with modern achievement," Angelopoulos said. "I know, because I choose to live in London." Indeed, one other thing that Angelopoulos has that Banks would cherish is a home off the King's Road, a stone's throw from his beloved Stamford Bridge.

BOWLS

Bryant can hold his head high in defeat

By David Rhys Jones

DAVID BRYANT met his match in the UK indoor singles championship yesterday, beaten in straight sets by Paul Foster, who is 42 years his junior.

Bryant, 67, had been tempted out of hibernation by the British Isles Indoor Bowling Council, who issued a wildcard invitation to the man who won 26 English and 13 world titles in a career that spanned six decades.

"It was an offer I could not refuse," Bryant said yesterday. "I feel I'm bowling as well as I was ten years ago, and it was good to be back playing at international level."

He certainly set about his task with relish. Bryant defied the odds by reaching the semi-finals, with excellent victories over Sandy Syme, the Scottish champion, and Jeremy Henry, the British champion.

The semi-final yesterday, in which the elder statesman of the game challenged the youthful world champion, captured the imagination of everyone, and although the 7-4, 7-4, 7-6 scoreline suggests that it was one-way traffic, it was truly a match to remember.

Straight sets, maybe, but fully two hours had elapsed by the time Bryant held out his hand to congratulate the winner, and 24 engrossing ends had been played.

Bryant took a four-shot lead in the first set, but Foster caught him with a full house, before winning the set with a double and a single.

The young Scot led 5-4 after nine ends in the second set, then broke the sequence of singles with a double on the tenth end.

"I thought I should have won the third set," Bryant said afterwards. "I missed a great chance to draw the winning shot on the penultimate end, and was a bit unlucky to hit the jack without trailing it on the very last end, when the scores were level at 6-6."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Olympic oarsmen turn up the heat

■ **BOWLING:** Britain's leading Olympic oarsmen travel to the Gold Coast, Australia, today for a warm-weather training camp as part of their preparation for the Sydney Olympics. Tomorrow, they will be the guests of honour at the opening of the Hinze Dam that will be the pre-Olympic base for the Great Britain team in 2000. The group includes only three of Britain's world champion four, as Tim Foster is still suffering from a back injury. Fred Scarlett, who substituted for Foster in the fours head, will be present.

■ **GOLF:** Tiger Woods is two shots off the lead after the first round of the Casio World Open in Japan. The American shot four birdies in his three-under-par 69 to trail Naomichi Ozaki, of Japan, the leader, who had a 67. Woods hooked his first shot of the round into the side of the gallery and the ball bounced off a tree into the face of a spectator, who required treatment for a nosebleed.

■ **SKIING:** Alberto Tomba, one of Italy's greatest postwar sporting heroes, is to go on trial for tax fraud. Leonardo Grassi, the investigating magistrate, said that the trial would begin on March 29, 2000. Tomba is accused of failing to enter some 23 billion lire (£4 million dollars) on his tax returns from 1990 to 1996. He faces up to five years in jail if convicted.

■ **BASKETBALL:** The NBA has announced that there will be no bargaining session with the players tomorrow and that none is scheduled for the immediate future, erasing optimism that the five-month long lockout may soon be resolved. The cancellation of tomorrow's session has taken the sides one step closer to the possible cancellation of the entire NBA season and came one day after the league announced that a televised double-header scheduled for Christmas Day had been scratched.

NETBALL

Late rally offers hope for future

By Cathy Harris

THE England 2000 squad could wrap up the three-match series against South Africa Under-21 when they meet at Crystal Palace tomorrow after Karen Greig, the England goal shooter, scored three times in the final two minutes to steer the home side to an exciting 44-31 victory in the first international match at Galeshead on Wednesday night.

Praised by Rachel Foley, the coach, for "making the right decisions when it mattered" as South Africa fought back in the third quarter, England's victory against the touring team is the first for the newly formed squad of under-21 players, who are preparing for the World Youth Cup in two years' time.

Sonia Mkoloma, the goalkeeper, who attended senior England trials last weekend,

marked the dangerous Rusky Mithelwa — although the South African still managed to convert 34 of her 41 attempts on goal for the Springboks. Lisa Fernyhough, playing alongside Mkoloma in defence, is another player who has been watched closely by the senior selectors.

Greig was the leading goalscorer for England with 27 and Jess Garland, daughter of Chris, the former Chelsea and Bristol City footballer, scored 17 for an impressive shooting percentage of 85 to sustain the England challenge.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL QUARTER SCORES (England first 16-7, 24-20, 33-32, 44-31)
ENGLAND 2000: K Greig (Greater Manchester), L Fernyhough (Greater Manchester), L Croft (Greater Manchester), L Moore (Durham), J Garland (Aston), H Linscott (Durham), E Essop (Essex Metropolitans), L Hudson (Essex Metropolitans), A Newell (Lancashire), V Perry (Tyne Tees), S Mkoloma (Aston)

ICE SKATING

Judges applaud rule changes

FROM ANGELA COURT IN ZAGREB

THE judging of ice dance, recently described by an insider as being previously "a bit like art with every judge knowing what they liked, but not having any clear guidelines on how to mark it", seems to be making advances here this week at the world junior figure skating championships.

Allowing for the fact that people are bound to take time to adapt, the introduction of new rules to this discipline has been generally well received by the judges, who are claiming that the changes have simplified their task.

They say the requirements are now far easier to define, the deductions are laid down in black and white, and that it is much more desirable that the marks awarded are no longer so heavily weighted by personal taste.

Yesterday, the ice dance competition reached its second stage, the original dance, which this season is set to the waltz rhythm.

Several of the performances were excellent. Jamie Silverstein and Justin Pekarek, from the United States, won the section and are in the lead going into the free dance tonight. Federica Faiella and Luciano Milo, from Italy, and Natalia Romanova and Danil Barantsev from Russia, are second and third respectively.

This result is a complete turnaround from the compulsory dance section on Tuesday, and it is good to see some movement, finally, through-out an ice dance event. Sharon Hill and Andrew Hallam, from Great Britain, skated well but the high standard, coupled with the International Skating Union (ISU) having raised the age for junior male ice dancers to 21, has left them languishing in 17th place.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final round: Group C: England 87 Denmark 70 (at National Indoor Arena)

BOWLS

POTTERS LEISURE CENTRE, Norfolk: United Kingdom indoor singles championship: Quarter-finals: D Bryant (Eng) 6-1 J Jones (Wales), D Bryant (Eng) 6-1 J Jones (Wales), D Bryant (Eng) 6-1 J Jones (Wales), D Bryant (Eng) 6-1 J Jones (Wales)

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: First day of four: Sydney: New South Wales 69-0 v Western Australia: Hobart: Queensland 212 (D Denton 4-55) Tasmania 20-1 (Maitland-Vince 2-58) T: 10-11-00-14-1 not out, J Lamberge 60 v South Australia

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results
EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Ajax 0 Croatia 2 (Goal: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000)

RYMAN LEAGUE: Vandal Trophy: Second round: Burgess Hill 0 Millers 1, Exeter 0 North County 2, Hyls 0 Rochdale 1, Second round: Burgess Hill 0 Millers 1, Exeter 0 North County 2, Hyls 0 Rochdale 1, Second round: Burgess Hill 0 Millers 1, Exeter 0 North County 2, Hyls 0 Rochdale 1

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Exeter 0 North County 2, Hyls 0 Rochdale 1, Second round: Burgess Hill 0 Millers 1, Exeter 0 North County 2, Hyls 0 Rochdale 1

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THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Exeter 0 North County 2, H

By MATT DICKINSON

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مَكْذُوبٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Don embraces Olympic spirit with bit of neighbourly help

David Powell,
athletics
correspondent,
on a young
triathlete not
content with
being the son of
a top referee

Tim Don has sat in some of the finest directors' boxes in English football, but there is no place in sport like the champion's chair. Especially the world champion's chair. Four years after his father went to USA 94 as England's only referee at the football World Cup finals, Tim reigns as Britain's first junior triathlon world champion since 1992. "He is like me—an individual and very well disciplined," Philip Don, now the referees' officer for the FA Premier League, said.

Tim's individuality began to blossom five years ago when he started to long for the life of his neighbour in Twickenham rather than that of his father. He played football, for school and borough, and recalls sitting among the directors at Old Trafford, Highbury and Elland Road. Yet the Robsons and Inces, the Winterburns and Wrights, were not his heroes. He wanted to be like Spencer Smith, from up the road.

Smith was Britain's last junior world champion, which means that the Thames Turbo club has spawned two, for it is Tim's club, too. Smith has won the senior world title twice since and Dave Bellingham, the Great Britain team manager, believes that Tim can bridge the divide between juniors and seniors.

"Tim is very tough and determined," Bellingham said. "I believe he can make the transition to senior level, but we have to be aware that it takes two to three years. Certainly, by 2004, we would be looking at him as a contender for doing well at the Olympics."

That determination has taken Tim to Zimbabwe in the past two winters for low-budget, high-altitude training. It has been, in a sense, football-sponsored because the funding has been provided by his father.

Some is recovered through prize-money and Tim received grants towards travel and accommodation on the European Cup circuit. "He is world champion on a shoestring," his father said. Only now has he been put on the National Lottery sports funding programme. Lottery money will enable Tim, 20, to join the



Tim Don has overcome a series of mishaps in leading events to emerge as the world junior triathlon champion

World Cup tour next year, the qualification route to the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. However, he has ground to make up if he is to earn a place, as the process of accumulating points has begun already.

Tim finished the season as leading junior in the European Cup, finishing sixth among the seniors, and his world title has opened the door to the St George Formula 1 series along the Sydney coastline in January.

Given that the 2000 Olympics are in Sydney, and that Australia is the most powerful triathlon nation, it will provide invaluable experience for the young Englishman.

The series field is restricted to 25 invited competitors, so it is a mark of the regard that the sport has for Tim that he should have been asked to take part.

Like Smith, Tim comes from a swimming background. Through that, he met triathletes who were friends of



Philip Don is glad that his son did not follow in his footsteps

Smith and the great adventure began. "I saw Spencer turning into a successful triathlete, and gradually I started to do a bit of running," Tim said.

It was during the run, in the image of Simon Lessing's victory

in the senior race the day before, that Tim won his world title in Lausanne in August. In the group at the end of the ride, he won by 40 seconds, an extraordinary margin. And just when he was

beginning to earn the soubriquet Calamity Tim. His championship record had become a catalogue of mishaps.

Three years ago, he crashed in the European duathlon and ended up in hospital. Last year he failed to finish the European and world championships after suffering a puncture and then dehydration. This year, at the European championships, he had his bike stolen.

He will take the physical abuse, though he is thankful that he did not follow his father onto the pitch of verbal abuse. Had refereeing never appealed? "Definitely not," Tim said. "Not with the stick my Dad got."

Don Sr, a referee for 29 years, is relieved, too. "I would not have encouraged him to become a referee," he said. "Society has changed and there is very little respect for people in authority."

Furthermore, why settle for being the man in the middle when, like Don Jr, you can be the man at the front?

Hope for car crime capital

Gardening Neighbours
BBC2, 8.30pm

The project to transform the gardens of a Sheffield cul-de-sac is turning into much more than bits of friendly advice on how to make a rockery or revive a bare lawn. With neighbours there is always the potential for friction and tonight hostilities break out. The problem is what to do with the central reservation which has become overgrown and rutted with tyre marks. Steve Herbert, the radio engineer from No 7, wants the area flattened so that cars can manoeuvre more easily. He threatens to quit the project unless his neighbours agree. They do not. Kay Harrap from No 3 says they want something aesthetic, not a Saleways car park. Meanwhile, Michelle Cooper, the forthright single mother, is also in combative mood, complaining about a general lack of progress.



Nigel Havers and Jane Gurnett star in the penultimate Dangerfield (BBC1)

Dangerfield
BBC1, 9.30pm (10.20pm Ireland)

The penultimate episode of the current series ends with an explosive cliffhanger designed to guarantee a big audience for next week's finale. To tell you what it is would spoil things, so suffice to say that a police informant held at a safe house gets violent, bullets start to fly and one of the show's main characters ends up in hospital on a life-support machine. The informant is played by Miles Anderson, an actor who makes a speciality of playing characters whose surface charm can mask a dangerously perverted mind. But away from the police work all is not gloom. The surgery of Nigel Havers's Dr Paige provides its usual quota of lighthearted relief (with such a staff it could hardly fail to) while on the romantic front Paige's new girlfriend (Lynsey Fawcett) looks like taking a more prominent part in his life.

Jim Davidson So Far
BBC1, 10.20pm

Having been a game show host for so long, Jim Davidson evidently feels it is time to get back to his original job of stand-up. He does so with a routine based loosely on his own career, not omitting gags about his former wives or the tabloid headlines (or, at least, some of less scurrilous) which he

unfailingly attracts. One mild surprise is that it takes him all of 15 minutes to get to the Viagra jokes. More surprising, perhaps, is that a comic who makes so much of his South London accent should have had a Scottish father and an Irish mother. It seems that Davidson's rise was due in part to dear old Arthur Askey, a comedian of an older, harder, more innocent tradition. When Davidson won the television talent show New Faces, Askey was one of the judges.

Stella Street
BBC2, 11.15pm

The idea of peopling a suburban London street with celebrities such as Michael Caine, Jack Nicholson and Mick Jagger continues to provide jolly fun, though the show is never quite as funny as it promises to be. But the very silliness of the venture is appealing and if John Sessions and Phil Cornwell, who between them play all the characters, sometimes miss the target, the level of mimicry is high. Tonight Al Pacino is getting married to his nurse. It is the cue for a raft of jokes built around Pacino's Godfather persona, the introduction of Dustin Hoffman and a very floozed Marlon Brando and further humiliation for Stella Street's resident fall guy, Jimmy Hill. It is never clear what Hill is doing in such company, except that the entire show is about incongruity of one sort or another. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Strictly Conventional
Radio 4, 11.00am

This new series is about those vast gatherings where people are urged to improve their motivation, so naturally it is all about America. Quentin Cooper went to the National Speakers Association convention in Philadelphia for its 25th anniversary gathering, held in an hotel with doors large enough to let the egos in. A few Brits are present, revealed by their self-deprecation. Graham Davis is a British barrister. "Essentially it's very difficult to make yourself heard at any time of the day or night, you need to walk around with your own microphone," Patricia Frith, originally from Dorset and one of the big draws on the American conference circuit, says: "We are in business showbusiness."

Afternoon Play: Writing Home
Radio 4, 2.15pm

Manny Draycott Lal's play is inspired by diaries sent by her aunts to their mother, who narrates the play, in the 1920s. The play is broadly an exploration of alienation. The mother, a white Trinidadian, has been married to an English officer who decides to return to England to advance his career, but soon after their arrival in London the husband dies. "George always said he'd take me back, home to the motherland," the widow recalls. "You cross the world for the sake of the man you love, you leave the only place where you belong and then they leave you anyway." The mother's sadness and the joy in the postcards she receives from her daughters is very well conveyed. Jane Lapotnik is the mother. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening
Includes 12.30pm News 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 News 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 6.30 Judge 11.00 Westwood 1.00 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Groovesville 4.00 Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 John Inverdale 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Des Lynam 7.00 Hubert Grogg 7.30 Friday Night is Music 10.00 News 11.00 Westwood 1.00 Rap Show 2.00am David Jacobs with Easy Does It 10.30 The Arts Programme 12.00 Lynne Parsons 4.00am Jackie Bird

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News with Alan Rahn 1.00pm Ruzoe and Co 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Includes a look ahead to Australia v England in the second cricket Test at Perth 10.00 Live 10.30 News 11.00 News 11.30 News 11.55 News 12.00am Richard Dalyn presents worldwide news coverage

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 8.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Hamish Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Richard West

TALK RADIO

5.00am Bill Overton 6.00 The Breakfast Show 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00 Anna Reesum 4.00 Peter Dinkley's Driveline 6.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 James Whiles 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Baroque (Symphony No 3 in A minor; HWV267) (Oboe Concerto in G minor; HWV267)
9.00 Musicworks with Henry Gore. Includes Handel, orch Elgar (Overture in D minor); Biber (The Nightwatchman); Shostakovich (Suite Hamlet); Bach (Preludes and Fugues Nos 21-24 48, Book 1); Stravinsky (Jeu de cartes)
10.30 Artist of the week: Barbara Hendricks
11.00 Sound Stories: Nicholas of Bari
12.00 Composer of the week: Josquin
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Emma Johnson, clavier; Martin Roscoe, piano (1)
2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Philharmonic under Matthias Bamert. Van Pascal Tortelier and Charles Mackerras, with James Starker, cello
4.00 Music Machine: Ondes martinet.
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty's guests tonight include the South American pianist Clara Rodriguez
7.30 Performance on 3 The first in a season of concerts in which the BBC Philharmonic perform Rachmaninov's three symphonies from Manchester's Bridgewater Hall. This concert was given last Saturday. Conductor Vassily Sinaisky.

RADIO 4

5.30am Inland News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 World News 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Rural report 6.00am News 6.05 Today with Sue MacGregor and John Humphrys 6.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Update from Westminster
8.00 Desert Island Discs Bill Moseley, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union (1)
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Interesting Narrative of Colin McFarlane concludes Claudine Equiano's account of his experiences as a slave
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Strictly Conventional Now series. See Choice 11.30 Gallies (24) (1)
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Liz Barclay and John Wingo tackle more consumer concerns
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One Presented by Nick Clarke
1.30 Screen Test Brian Sibby chairs the film quiz
2.15 Afternoon Play: Writing Home Jane Lapotnik stars in Manny Draycott Lal's drama about the colonial left by a Trinidadian widow whose daughters correspond with her from around the world. With India Obe, Elizabeth Conboy, Tey Gault and Geoffrey Whitehead. See Choice 3.00 Making History Roger Wilkes helps listeners research their own historical mysteries
3.30 Up on the Manor Sherriffers discuss the importance of the Manor Castle, a decaying run where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned (1)
3.45 Feedback Chris Dunkley asks more listeners' letters
4.00 What Does Mr Swansby Want? Philip Norton recalls the man behind the BBC World Service's Caribbean Voice series (1)

RADIO 4

4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 True Lies Bob Mills and Bernard Ingham join the comedy quiz, which aims to expose the hidden world of the spin doctor, finding the truth behind the headlines. Hosted by David Aaronovitch
7.00 The Archers Julia gets a disappointing return
7.15 Front Row Francine Stock presents the night arts review
7.45 Still Waters by Sergio Casca. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (1)
8.00 Any Questions? Dafydd Wigley MP, Baroness Shirley Williams, Lord Biffen and Roddy Morgan MP debate issues raised by the audience in Westpool, Penryn. Jonathan Dimbleby chairs
8.45 Letter from America Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana
9.00 The Friday Play: From Salford to Jericho Montage of interviews and poetry by Simon Armitage, tackling homelessness in Salford. With Stephen Redmond and Alistair Gibrath (1)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another World Robert Glesford reads Pat Barker's new novel (5/10) (1)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor O'Riordan and guests discuss sports sponsorship
11.30 (FM) Notes from the Ditch Anne Ewing encourages writers and critics to share opinions on gamesmanship in sport
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from Westminster
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: A Man in Full William Hoare reads Tom Wolfe's novel exploring men's moral outlook in the 1990s
12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.9. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.5. LW 108. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 680, 900. WORLD SERVICE. FM 94.5, 95.4, 96.4, LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.9. MW 1197, 1215. TALK. FM 106.1, 106.3, 106.5, 106.7, 106.9, 107.1, 107.3, 107.5, 107.7, 107.9, 108.1, 108.3, 108.5, 108.7, 108.9, 109.1, 109.3, 109.5, 109.7, 109.9, 110.1, 110.3, 110.5, 110.7, 110.9, 111.1, 111.3, 111.5, 111.7, 111.9, 112.1, 112.3, 112.5, 112.7, 112.9, 113.1, 113.3, 113.5, 113.7, 113.9, 114.1, 114.3, 114.5, 114.7, 114.9, 115.1, 115.3, 115.5, 115.7, 115.9, 116.1, 116.3, 116.5, 116.7, 116.9, 117.1, 117.3, 117.5, 117.7, 117.9, 118.1, 118.3, 118.5, 118.7, 118.9, 119.1, 119.3, 119.5, 119.7, 119.9, 120.1, 120.3, 120.5, 120.7, 120.9, 121.1, 121.3, 121.5, 121.7, 121.9, 122.1, 122.3, 122.5, 122.7, 122.9, 123.1, 123.3, 123.5, 123.7, 123.9, 124.1, 124.3, 124.5, 124.7, 124.9, 125.1, 125.3, 125.5, 125.7, 125.9, 126.1, 126.3, 126.5, 126.7, 126.9, 127.1, 127.3, 127.5, 127.7, 127.9, 128.1, 128.3, 128.5, 128.7, 128.9, 129.1, 129.3, 129.5, 129.7, 129.9, 130.1, 130.3, 130.5, 130.7, 130.9, 131.1, 131.3, 131.5, 131.7, 131.9, 132.1, 132.3, 132.5, 132.7, 132.9, 133.1, 133.3, 133.5, 133.7, 133.9, 134.1, 134.3, 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ST-RATES

Budapest, bonobos and baked sea-bass

The title over the scratchy black and white surveillance film read: "CCCP / KGB - CAM". But who is this furry, approaching an ice-cream and muttering something about "Red October"? Why it's our old friend Jools Holland, funky musical virtuoso and cheeky, slightly chippy, Bear Route (BBC2), the first of Jools Holland's new series of musical rambles, was going to be wacky!

And some of it was. There was a split-screen effect when two rival Joolses bickered with each other while introducing the city. Later he told us about Elizabeth Bathory, the notorious 16th-century countess who killed 650 virgins and bathed in their blood hoping that it would extend her life. "I didn't, so don't try it," he quipped. We finished off with Jools's vampire gurney and ghost-trail sound-effects after the final credits.

The trouble was that he kept

spouting what sounded like chunks from rather dull guidebooks. The city is a "World Heritage Site". "Heroes' Square, built in 1897, has a fluted column 118 feet tall". Jools tends to mumble somewhat, so I didn't catch the name of the man who commissioned the old bridge, based on one in Bristol Clifton suspension bridge, presumably, but he also introduced the steam train to Hungary, we learnt.

"What is it about old Budapest that makes it so enchanting?" he asked, in a bid for the Judith Chaimson Comfy Traveltique Award. The answer, surprisingly, turned out to be that the streets are alive with the sound of strangled cats.

Since the dawn of recorded time, the history of Eastern Europe has been one of massacres, tyranny, suffering and privation. From Macedonia to the Baltic the peasants have expressed the pain of their souls in song, in an attempt to inflict it on everybody else.

So Jools set up his piano in a medieval square in old Buda and jammed with Michael Dresch, a tenor saxophonist and crossover-jazz-blues/transylvanian-singer. The vibe was cool, until Dresch started to sing. Then it sounded as if he was having the blood sucked slowly out of his undercarriage by a gummy vampire.

Down at the youth dance club, where they went in for vigorous ankle-slapping, the traditional musicians seemed to be torturing strays. The gypsy choir on the Danube embankment were practising holding very high notes for a very long time. Then they went even higher and squeaked. Across the city wine-glasses shattered and bats dropped from bellies with bleeding cars.

Jools's interests are refreshingly catholic, and the series provides a potentially infinite format. Last

night he laid on some real gems, amid the small furry mammal house, including the unaccompanied harmonies of a Serbian church choir and the pianist Stan Kockis. And it was very nice that he found a rare East German Wartburg sports car. Next week he's in Seville, a city famous for its barber, marmalade and Moorish-Cypriot-Flamenco-Blues-Funk, but suspiciously short of live pets.



Paul Hoggart

Mind you, you can take the love of animals a bit too far. "The trouble with kissing bonobos is that they have a habit of sticking their tongue down your throat. They did French kissing long before the French did," explained Benny, Bonobos are a rare species closely related to chimpanzees, but physically and mentally even closer to ourselves, and Benny is their elderly keeper at Twycross Zoo in Warwickshire.

Molly's Zoo (BBC1) was a profile of this remarkable establishment, founded by Molly Badham, now in her eighties and still going strong. It is, we were told, one of the most respected primate zoos in the world, with more than 300 apes and monkeys in 47 different varieties.

Molly's devotion seems total. She knows all her charges by name and makes a point of trying to see each one daily, although the chimps have always been her

favourites. She takes her work home with her, hand-rearing dozens over the years. Currently Tommy, a four-year-old chimp neglected by its mother, is commuting to work with her in her car.

Molly's chimps provided the cast of those frightful PG Tips commercials. Older and fatter, the cast are now in her home for retired thespians, and are still given ice, though it is served in a bucket and brewed for a full hour.

Chimps are "very polite eaters", apparently. They will often offer you a lick of their ice-cream. "I don't mind eating after a chimp," explained Molly. "I wouldn't like to show a person."

But the bonobos stole the show. They are "the Peter Pans of the ape world", Betty told us. "They live to the full" and scream like Hungarian ballad singers. They pretend to be keepers, enjoy

cleaning windows and arranging flowers.

I missed *The Italian Kitchen*, but *The Italian Kitchen 2* (Channel 4) has been a revelation. Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers of the River Café send a blast of fresh Mediterranean air through the food world of television cookery: unpretentious, enthusiastic and crystal clear. Their lack of celebrity showmanship is matched by their obvious love of good produce and exciting recipes.

So far we have had vegetables and last night's fish programme, which included magnificent recipes for baked sea-bass and crab spaghetti. I have two minor reservations. I have no idea where to get ingredients such as cavolo nero, and Rose Gray's hope that a dormant carp will not wake up when you boil it alive seems optimistic. A microphone in the water, I fear, would pick up something very like a Transylvanian folk choir.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (55244)
- 7.00 Breakfast News (1) (32718)
- 9.00 Killy (1) (823331)
- 9.00 Style Challenge (902628)
- 10.05 City Hospital (1) (916019)
- 10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (1) (920379)
- 11.00 Good Living with Jane Asher (930756)
- 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (933843)
- 11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (1) (939918)
- 12.00pm Pass the Buck (456153)
- 12.25 Going for a Song (454060)
- 12.50 The Weather Show (1) (916883)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (1) (93505)
- 1.30 Regional News; Weather (7393114)
- 1.40 Neighbours: Toddie tries to win Karen back (1) (675053)
- 2.05 Inside the Circle helps a friend endure a harrowing ordeal in a remote mountain cabin (1) (975621)
- 2.55 Wipeout: (1) Consuming Passions (295114)
- 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (621398)
- 3.45 Baranman (1) (61640)
- 3.50 The All-New Popeye Show (3270282)
- 3.55 Dear Mr Barker (787468)
- 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (9827282)
- 4.35 Lintard's Record Breakers (7497911)
- 5.00 Newsround (1) (218621)
- 5.10 Blue Peter (5440715)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (81331)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (379)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (331)
- 7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigations (1) (178)
- 7.30 Top of the Pops: The week's chart-toppers, featuring the UK's number one single (1) (843)
- 8.00 Shops, Robbers and Videotape (1) (921)
- 8.30 In Extreme Danger: Fighter pilot Tim Elliott's battle to fly again after crashing his biplane in a Hammer Jump jet which plummeted to earth from 100ft (2/6) (1) (875)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (1) (1718)
- 9.30 **CHOICE** Dangerfield: A supergrass dries of life in protective custody and causes a disturbance which requires the attention of Dr Paige and Dr Craver. The informant's so-called "house" soon becomes a place where a hail of bullets confirms his worst fears. Drama, starring Nigel Havers and Jane Gurnett (1) (51718)
- 10.20 **CHOICE** Jim Davidson: So Far: A documentary profiling the comedian and television presenter who this year is celebrating 20 years in show business celebrating 20 years in show business (1) (51718)
- 11.10 The Stand-Up Show with Peter Kay (95027)
- 11.40 Darkman (1990) Offbeat horror about a disgraced scientist bent on mayhem. Starring Liam Neeson and Frances McDormand (1) (989824)
- 1.05am Newsnight (4722848)
- 1.10 BBC News 24 (9891535)

- 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Harry Potter (534997) 7.00am Telebooks (215634) 7.30am Tom and Jerry Kids (2951973) 7.55am Smart (525323) 8.20am Robinson Sucroe (985308) 8.45am Johnson and Friends (658114) 8.55am Harry Potter (5057485) 9.00am Daytime On Two (515003) 9.10am See You, See Me (554358) 9.30am World of the Future (8105008) 9.45am Come Outside (8105008) 10.00am Children's BBC Telebooks (11737) 10.30am Daytime On Two Megamaths (957950) 10.50am Look and Read (959114) 11.10am Landmarks (9421000) 11.50am English File (5553) 12.00pm Testamant: The Bible Animation (33814) 12.30pm Working Lunch (23009) 1.00pm Johnson and Friends (9882369)
- 1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour: The renovation of a Birmingham terrace and the art of paper-making (1) (2313758)
- 2.10 Snooker: UK Championship Live coverage from the opening eight frames of the first semi-final at the Bournemouth International Centre (1) (172185)
- 6.00 The Simpsons: Double-bill. Homer traces his half-brother and Bart becomes a model human being (1) (267178)
- 6.45 Robot Wars: Craig Charles presents motorised mayhem as radio-controlled robots vie for places in the final battle arena (1) (471008)
- 7.15 Electric Blue: Pop idols Boyzone perform and actors Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan talk about their new film Rush Hour. Presented by Kate Sanderson (1) (419331)
- 7.30 Snooker: UK Championship More from Bournemouth as the first semi-final plays to a finish (21718)
- 8.30 **CHOICE** Gardening Neighbours: The Sheffield neighbours clash over plans for a community garden, while Kay at Number 3 transforms a dull street into a postcard-style beach hut (1) (6368)
- 9.00 The Fast Show: Another chance to see the comedy series (1) (1) (206)
- 9.30 Goodness Gracious Me: Mr Everything Comes From India proves that Superman was Indian in the Asian sketch show featuring the talents of Sanjeev Bhaskar, Meera Syal and Nina Wadia (1) (49824)
- 10.00 Have I Got News for You: The regulars are joined by Linda Smith and Gavin Eider (83373)
- 10.30 Newsnight with Kirsty Wark (1) (464640)
- 11.15 **CHOICE** Stella Street: Al Pacino gets married. With John Sessions and Phil Cornwell (1) (199534)
- 11.30 Snooker: UK Championship Highlights of this evening's crucial frames in Bournemouth (1) (17737)
- 12.10am Club Life: 198 (456064)
- 1.40 Cafe 21 Asian women (504041)
- 2.10 Weather (827577) 2.15 Close
- 3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Business. English - Macbeth (43022) 5.00 Close

- 5.30am ITN Morning News (92263)
- 6.00 GMTV (930384)
- 9.25 Trisha (1) (467226)
- 10.15 This Morning (1) (376535)
- 12.15pm HTV News and Weather (1) (338247)
- 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (1) (56114)
- 12.50 HTV Crimestoppers (5874350)
- 1.00 Shortland Street (20973)
- 1.30 Home and Away: Tegan and Joey have a heart-to-heart (1) (55485)
- 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (582529)
- 2.40 WEST: Relative Knowledge (1) (296138)
- 2.40 WALS: Animal Country (296138)
- 3.10 ITN News Headlines (1) (747922)
- 3.15 HTV News (1) (747553)
- 3.20 CITY: Wizzards (748517) 3.30 Archibald the Koala (740623) 3.45 The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (2057824) 4.05 Bernard's Watch (436030) 4.20 Fun House (3285114) 4.50 Top Ten of Everything (287447)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (435424)
- 5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (1) (82453)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (227952)
- 6.25 WALS: Wales Tonight; Weather (1) (44114)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (988398)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (1) (517)
- 7.00 Bruce's Price is Right (1) (5668)
- 7.30 Coronation Street Des is laid to rest (1) (911)
- 8.00 The Bill: An amateur opera singer asks Guinness to track down an ex-con who's been harassing her with bizarre phone calls. With Andrew Paul, Joy Brook and George Ross (1) (5263)
- 9.00 Britain's Most Wanted: An appeal for help in finding a contract killer head by a Lowestoft woman to murder her husband (3/6) (1) (5027)
- 10.00 News at Ten; Weather (1) (8319)
- 10.30 HTV News and Weather (1) (58740)
- 10.40 Friday Night's All Right With guests Mick Hucknall and Another Level (3/10) (508805)
- 11.30 The Jerry Springer Show (766263)
- 12.10am Soundtrack (9813857)
- 12.30 Private TV: Discover the delights of line skating (4/7) (13935)
- 1.00 God's Gift (1) (54303)
- 2.00 Club@Vizion: Clubs in Wolverhampton and Somerset (314664)
- 2.45 The Haunted Flat (1) (31408)
- 3.15 The Hijackers (1963) A woman helps a haulage contractor expose a gang of crooks robbing long-distance lorries. Crime drama, starring Anthony Booth and Jacqueline Ellis (684770)
- 4.25 Heirloom Patchwork quilts (7850151)
- 4.55 ITV Newsnight (1554683)
- 5.00 Coronation Street (1) (48848)

- As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Weather (1) (950908) 1.00 Echo Point (20973) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (582529) 2.40 Home and Away (1) (55485) 2.40 WEST: Relative Knowledge (1) (296138) 2.40 WALS: Animal Country (296138) 3.10 ITN News Headlines (1) (747922) 3.15 HTV News (1) (747553) 3.20 CITY: Wizzards (748517) 3.30 Archibald the Koala (740623) 3.45 The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (2057824) 4.05 Bernard's Watch (436030) 4.20 Fun House (3285114) 4.50 Top Ten of Everything (287447)
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- 12.10am Soundtrack (9813857)
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- 1.00 God's Gift (1) (54303)
- 2.00 Club@Vizion: Clubs in Wolverhampton and Somerset (314664)
- 2.45 The Haunted Flat (1) (31408)
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- SKY 1**
7.00am The Simpsons (76176) 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (10727) 8.30 The Simpsons (76176) 9.00 The Simpsons (76176) 9.30 The Simpsons (76176) 10.00 The Simpsons (76176) 10.30 The Simpsons (76176) 11.00 The Simpsons (76176) 11.30 The Simpsons (76176) 12.00 The Simpsons (76176) 12.30 The Simpsons (76176) 1.00 The Simpsons (76176) 1.30 The Simpsons (76176) 2.00 The Simpsons (76176) 2.30 The Simpsons (76176) 3.00 The Simpsons (76176) 3.30 The Simpsons (76176) 4.00 The Simpsons (76176) 4.30 The Simpsons (76176) 5.00 The Simpsons (76176) 5.30 The Simpsons (76176) 6.00 The Simpsons (76176) 6.30 The Simpsons (76176) 7.00 The Simpsons (76176) 7.30 The Simpsons (76176) 8.00 The Simpsons (76176) 8.30 The Simpsons (76176) 9.00 The Simpsons (76176) 9.30 The Simpsons (76176) 10.00 The Simpsons (76176) 10.30 The Simpsons (76176) 11.00 The Simpsons (76176) 11.30 The Simpsons (76176) 12.00 The Simpsons (76176) 12.30 The Simpsons (76176) 1.00 The Simpsons (76176) 1.30 The Simpsons (76176) 2.00 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FOOTBALL 52

Manchester United look to task remaining after dazzling in Spain

SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27 1998

RUGBY UNION 53

Paterson under fire from former greats of Scotland game



England wait for Thorpe as doubts resurface

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PERTH

RAPPING the Test pitch here with bare knuckles yesterday brought a sound like a knock on a concrete wall. It was audible evidence that Perth is ready to reclaim its reputation as a venue apart and stage a Test match played at dizzying pace, with no concessions for the faint-hearted.

The locals are rubbing their hands over a rock-hard surface bearing none of the cracks that, two years ago, opened into craters during a Test match against West Indies. This one, they say, will be simply quick, bouncy and intimidating. Whether this will suit England is debatable, but last night, as the selectors considered their options for the game that starts here tomorrow, another back complaint distracted them. This time it was Graham Thorpe, whose spinal disorder had recurred, and with England planning to employ all seven of their specialist batsmen, it could not have been more inconvenient.

The consequence was a delay in naming a squad, which was not so troublesome if it secured England even the minor gain of keeping the opposition guessing. Australia have played their hand already and Jason Gillespie, their quickest bowler, will return to a four-man attack that includes Colin Miller, the bleached-blond Tasmanian.

In 1991, Graham Gooch's team was beaten by nine wickets, the signal for a cutting speech by Gooch about the shortcomings of the English game. Four years later, after a thrashing by 329 runs, Michael Atherton emerged with a pageful of notes, equally damning. Alec Stewart is unlikely to be driven to such an outpouring if England lose this time, largely because the series is still in its infancy, but also because he is not that kind of

man. In his unfailingly polite statements, Stewart, if anything, is becoming blander by the week.

England, he said, would pick "the best team available to beat Australia in these conditions". They would talk, again, about what they did right and wrong in Brisbane. "I will state the obvious, as I always do," he added, with more than a hint of self-parody.

To be fair — as Stewart is also fond of saying — the England captain is wise to refrain from any drum-banging ripostes to local disdain for his team. He will sense that they have a chance in this series if they can survive this next obstacle, but he will also suspect that it may prove the most daunting of their winter.

The concern over Thorpe, initially, was played down. For a man approaching 3,500 Test runs and boasting a formidable record against Austral-



Miller: keen to exploit pitch



Headley: hoping for recall

ia, Thorpe is one of those sportsmen who seldom seems at the peak of health and he has suffered various minor ailments on this tour.

That said, it was a well-documented risk to bring both him and Atherton here with ongoing back problems, when all seven batsmen were likely to be chosen for either or both of

the first two Tests. If Thorpe, who made 123 in the corresponding Test on the previous tour, does not recover, England would have little option but to include Graeme Hick, who was summoned to cover for Atherton in Brisbane.

Stewart did not think this would be necessary. "Thorpe is only a little stiff and it's

more a result of spending seven hours on a plane," he said. "I am convinced he will play, but we have to leave our selection until tomorrow."

Having been set against the seven-batsmen policy in Brisbane and winning the point, Stewart is more conciliatory this time. "Australia speak of picking horses for courses and we will do the same," he said. "It is definitely an option here and it would obviously mean that we would go in without a spin bowler."

The omission of Robert Croft, who bowled serviceably in Brisbane, would cause none of the angst that has followed Australia's decision to leave out Stuart MacGill. In a short time as a Test player, he has proven himself an influential wicket-taker; Croft cannot be considered as such.

England's trickiest decision concerned the make-up of their seam attack. The likeliest outcome was a recall for Dean Headley at the expense of

Angus Fraser, for whom Perth is anything but an ideal pitch. The theory that Dominic Cork might be at risk from the uncapped and — to Australians — unknown Alex Tudor seemed just too ambitious.

Two bowlers were automatic selections: Alan Mullally, who had his best match for England in Brisbane, and Darren Gough, who had one of his most chastening. Stewart had words of comfort for Gough.

Chanderpaul to rescue... 50
Kent in turmoil... 50

calling him "the quickest bowler in the series", and predicting that his returns would soon reflect it.

Gillespie might dispute Stewart's assessment, as might Glenn McGrath. The Australia strike bowler, with seven wickets to his name already, spoke with menacing confidence yesterday. Of his

overblown duel with Atherton McGrath said: "It gives people something to talk about. Last year it was Warne against Cullinan, here it's me and Atherton." But Atherton's advertised intention to continue hooking him brought a smile. "I'm happy that he was having a go at it... I'd prefer that to guys who get out of the way," he said.

Australia "took a lot out of the Brisbane game and we have the ascendancy at the moment," McGrath said. "They tell me that this will be back to the old-style Waca wicket that we haven't seen for a few years. I don't think I've ever played on it when it's been really quick and bouncy. I'm looking forward to finding out."

ENGLAND (from): A Stewart (captain), M Atherton, M Mullally, N Hume, G Thorpe, M Ramprakash, J Crawley, G Hick, D Cork, D Gough, A Fraser, D Headley, A Tudor, A Mullally.
AUSTRALIA (from): M Taylor (captain), M Slater, J Langer, M Waugh, S Waugh, R Ponting, I Hogg, D Phillips, J Gillespie, M Kasprowicz, C Miller, G McGrath.
Umpires: D Harper (Aus) and S Venkatesh, Chennai (India)

Henman and Rusedski meet

Best of British ready to go head to head

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN HANOVER

TIM HENMAN raised expectations to fever pitch yesterday with a patiently crafted victory over Alex Corretja to reach the last four of the ATP Tour finals. With Greg Rusedski later dismissing Albert Costa, an eleventh-hour replacement for Marcelo Rios, it was a momentous day for British tennis.

The stage, thus, is set for the Britons to lock horns today, although the stakes are not as high as they might appear. The knowledge that Henman has already qualified at the top of the injury-torn white

group may mildly dilute his desire. Rusedski has the greater incentive, even if victory may not be enough for him to join Henman in the semi-finals. Henman's 7-6, 6-7, 6-2 triumph once again amplified the gains that he has made since he reached the Wimbledon semi-finals. Corretja, world-ranked No 6, has become a feisty indoor competitor. This was evidenced by his tournament victory in Lyon six weeks ago, the first indoors by a Spaniard in 22 years.

Corretja had also beaten a lacklustre Henman on their

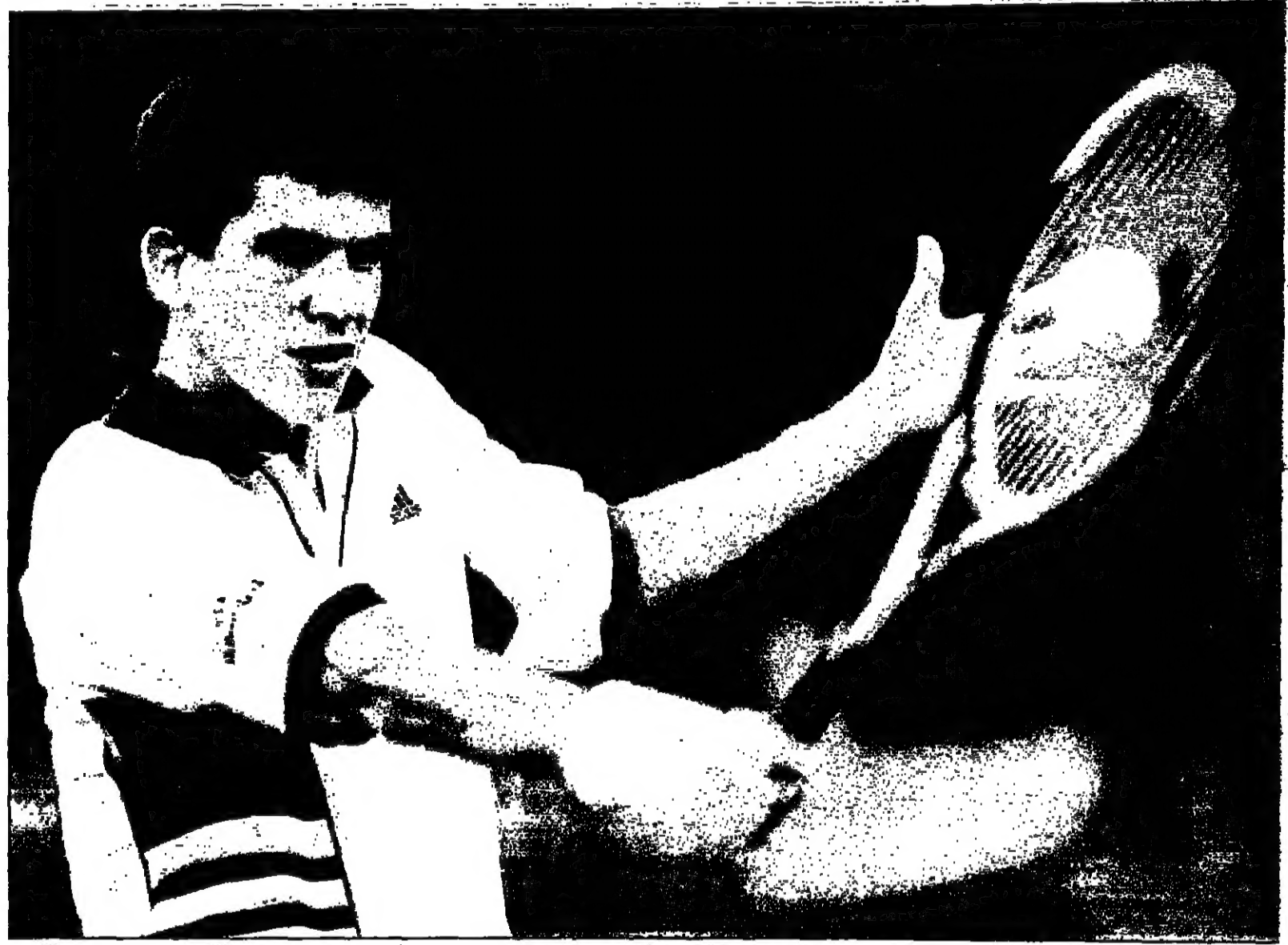
only previous encounter, in Paris 13 months ago. His baseline accuracy and tenacity make a formidable combination, as Henman discovered in a tense opening set with no break points offered by either. The tie-break was equally close, Henman's aggression forcing Corretja into a rushed backhand pass that drifted wide of the sideline.

Throughout that set, Henman confronted the ultimate dilemma in attempting to break the Spaniard. He could not win from the baseline, yet Corretja's passes were so laced with venom that Henman might easily have abandoned his forcing tactics. Instead, he increased the bombardment, attacking Corretja at every turn, pressing his opponent into errors.

Set two was a different affair as the intensity reduced both players to basic errors. Henman appeared to suffer more. He wasted a promising position when Costa trailed 6-5 and 30-0, surrendering the advantage with some poor returning. Indeed, when Corretja rifled another backhand pass down Henman's line at set point in the tie-break, he looked the more likely winner.

Yet Henman has learnt how to regroup, which he did at the start of the third set. "I had to be stubborn," he said. "I had to believe in my tactics." He set about the Spaniard with renewed vigour, seizing four games in succession to establish a winning platform. With Henman maintaining excellent concentration, there could be no redemption for the toiling Corretja.

Rusedski, for his part, only learnt of Rios's defection minutes before Henman completed his victory. The trouble was that, unlike Rios, Costa plays right-handed. This required some significant last-minute adjustments from the Briton, who said after his 7-6, 6-1 triumph: "It was quite difficult. I



Henman plays a backhand volley during his victory over Corretja yesterday, which earned him a place in the semi-finals of the ATP Tour finals

needed a totally different game-plan and was a little tight out there for a while."

That doubtless accounted for Rusedski needing ten opportunities before he captured the opening set in a tie-break. He found his range after that, running away with the contest to establish an outside chance at a semi-final place.

Even if Rusedski triumphs over Henman today, he would still be reliant on the outcome of the match between Corretja

and Costa tonight. The Spaniards are friends. More relevantly, Costa, world-ranked No 14, has never won an indoor match.

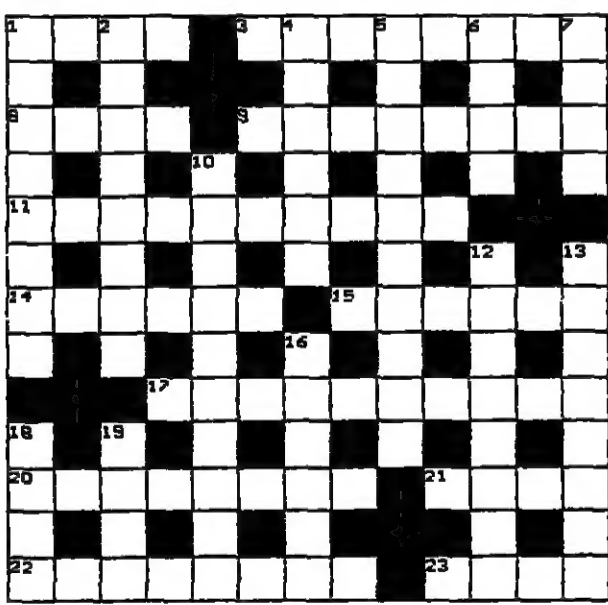
Costa's defeat by Rusedski marked his sixteenth consecutive reverse. A seventeenth at Corretja's hands would see the latter safely through. The fact that Costa is involved in matches of such significance exposes the soft underbelly of this event.

Under the unenviable rules



Rusedski moves relentlessly to a convincing win over Costa

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1574

ACROSS

- 1 Conceal: skin (4)
- 3 Typical example (5)
- 5 Lateral part (6)
- 9 Rules expressed in symbols (maths) (5)
- 11 Trickster: conjuror's incantation (5-5)
- 14 Courage: ghost (6)
- 15 Give satisfaction to (6)
- 17 Sea-plane (6-4)
- 20 Put a name to (5)
- 21 Reasonable: light-coloured (4)
- 22 (Inscription) on stone (5)
- 23 Head growth (4)

DOWN

- 1 Not to be talked about (4-4)
- 2 Imparting a lesson (5)
- 4 Parable of light (6)
- 5 Protective colouring, concealment (10)
- 6 A grinder (4)
- 7 Scots: turnip (4)
- 10 Swung from side to side (10)
- 12 Wide view (5)
- 13 Univ: teacher (5)
- 16 Not be the same (6)
- 18 Satiated: wholly occupy (4)
- 19 (Liquid) trickle thinly (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1573

ACROSS: 1 Victoria Falls 8 Round up 9 Comet 10 Cob
11 Cagliari 13 Treaty 14 Fifful 17 Spillage 19 Raw
20 Among 22 Courage 24 Argued the loss
DOWN: 1 Voracity 2 Crumble 3 Odd 4 Impugn
5 Facsimile 6 Lemur 7 Set 11 Catalogue 12 Flawless
15 Farrago 16 Cavort 18 Prong 20 Gala 23 Tie

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Everton in wilderness

By PHIL YATES

CLIVE EVERTON, the BBC snooker commentator, has become well acquainted with his Bournemouth hotel room this week. When he is not commenting on the United Kingdom Championship at the International Centre, he is banished from the arena and its environs, including the restaurant and swimming pool.

Everton's options have been limited by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), which took the decision last month to bar him indefinitely from all of its tournament venues.

At 61, Everton is widely recognised as the game's foremost evangelist. In the early Seventies, before the explosion

in snooker's popularity, he ploughed a lone journalistic furrow but, because of his criticism of successive administrations, he has come to be regarded as something of an anti-establishment figure.

Like a number of the leading players, including Stephen Hendry and Steve Davis, Everton has become increasingly disenchanted with the WPBSA board of directors. Never a shrinking violet, he has been heavily critical of what he perceives to be its inadequacy in running the game. These charges — including organisational deficiencies and a failure to attract new

sponsors — have been particularly aimed at Rex Williams, the chairman.

Earlier this year, the WPBSA even resorted to stripping Everton, an enthusiastic billiards player, of his honorary membership, without trial or charge. BBC Radio 5 Live, one of the many media outlets for whom Everton works, has protested his ban by refusing to take their customary hourly reports on the event.

The WPBSA stated: "No interviews or comments will be made by the Association regarding any political matters in our sport while the championship is taking place."

Harold in a hurry, page 51

TOMORROW



HE'S BACK!

David Beckham - £6.7 million

Michael Owen - £9.4 million

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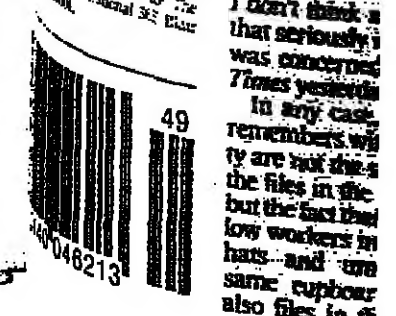
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an advised... ministers... will be part of some... services agreements... which... the Treasury... Chief Secretary... Cabinet... which will be outlined in a... (see short)...
The... has sold the departments to... leave, fraud and procure... areas for economies... the negotiations... Customs... already told the Govern... to double to £100 million... revenue it gains from detect... alcohol and cigarettes.

Fay Co

FAY WRECK and feminist... that she work... unh... linked to... and that she... look: when we... cret... finally... walked by her... Although... edged in... a brief spell... in the Fort... left St And... has now... worked for... formation... ment (BRT)... "I suppose... by the Office... I don't think... that seriously... was... 700... In any case... remember... we're not... the files in... but the fact... low workers... hats... and... same... cup... also files in...



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